MEDITATIONS

AND

SOLILOQUIES

WITH

Religious Experiences,

BY

JOHN RUTTY, M.D.

Extracted from his Spiritual Diary.

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BRITISH MUSEUM

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WHAT is the ſhadow to the ſubſtance? ſuch is writing compared to living; a humbling conſideration: Lord give the life!

Here is the letter, but a want of a greater meaſure of the ſpirit or fountain of the letter, which would animate to ſpeak as well as read.

On the view of an old aſſociate, who has far outſtripped me in the ſpiritual race:

Thou haſt indeed kept thy integrity from thy youth; but I have deviated into the earth, and notwithſtanding my fine opportunities, been ſullied by the world; but God is indulgent to me beyond expreſſion, in favouring with living incentives to a return to him, and to a redemption of loſt time.

O the laborious and ſlaviſh life of many thouſands! and on the other hand, O my happy leiſure, and inviting, precious opportunity for ſpirituals, ſurely henceforth to be improved!

Let us conſider our dignity in the order of the creation, a little lower than the angels, and aſpire accordingly to purity and perfection.

The grand and principal object has been, it's to be feared with many, the health of the body, excluſive of the health of the mind, except in an inferior way; it is time now to turn about and apply the ſhort reſidue of life to the latter, primarily and chiefly.

Night is coming with long ſtrides: the grand work of all, I truſt, is doing, though not done; ſo that here is room for activity, not deſpair.

O the bounty of God to me! moſt of my evils (*i. e.* troubles) are imaginary, compared to the real ones of others.

Perfection in knowledge was never intended for us; for we take a trip or two, and then go down to the grave, therefore aim not at it.

Again, neither was happineſs intended for us here; therefore do not expect it: but frequent and wholeſome croſſes.

Let eating, drinking and knowledge, be directed to their proper ends, viz. to live, and do good: then the purſuit of theſe gratifications would be conſecrated; and particularly that of knowledge would tend not to pride, but charity.

Again, the vices of the age are far more general, as well as more hurtful, than bodily diſeaſes, which often prove wholeſome chaſtiſements: wherefore, the leaſt in the kingdom of heaven, even the leaſt who doth Chriſt's commands and teacheth others ſo to do, and directs his aims thereto, as his principal End, is greater and better than any meer phyſician; even as grace is above nature, and heaven above earth. O how

O how little religion in converſation! Earth and earthly things have preponderated.

Let no ſins be ſo grievous as thoſe of thy own boſom.

Lord, give wiſdom to reliſh with gratitude, and improve my ſolitude, which aſſuredly though great, is no more than is wholeſome, neceſſary buſineſs abſorbing a great part of my time.

Rather too much buſineſs, and all on bodily diſorders, whilſt thoſe of the ſouls of men give them little anxiety.

Earths and ſtones decay, and ſo doſt thou, ſurely, though ſlowly.

O where is the communion of ſaints! I ſee clearly the head is ſick: and few, few, very few, united in a joint concern for the promotion of truth upon earth.

O the profuſion of favours, in health, peace, liberty, the dew of heaven, and the fatneſs of the earth! Lord, preſerve from the hurt of the laſt; and, Soul, remember the contraſt, in that memorable ſaying, "Who was made perfect through ſuffering."

Health of body, of ſoul, and the preſervation of eſtate, all conſpire in alluring to temperance. O the complicated folly of drinking to exceſs, the vice of the age!

All the days of my appointed time will I wait on God, for a more thorough conformity of my will to his!

Lord, thy law is holy, juſt, and good, and hath our peace and happineſs for its end! ſhall I then not purſue it ardently?

Surely, God ſpeaketh to us of this ſociety and faith, "*Grandeur is not fit for you*" even by the repeated inſtances of its fall, and laying our honour in the duſt.

This is the autumn of my life, and bleſſed be God! analogous, in a good degree, to that in nature, viz. a time for gathering in, and collecting for private and public uſe, the acquiſitions of youth and age.

Strong tokens of a decay in the ſociety appear. Lord, grant me faithfulneſs in this arduous time!

Some little buddings of a regenerate ſpirit appear: but, O, too little! Lord cheriſh!

A ſenſible and great injury by running into converſation preſently after meeting.

Lord, canſt not thou do that for us, in this day of proſperity and tranquility, which thou didſt for our fathers in the day of adverſity?

Anſwer. All thy failures and ſins are for want of faith in the divine gift.

Now I believe that death is at hand, and now I will haſten to prepare for it; ſo help me, O God!

Surely, Lord, thou art more than a thouſand witneſſes in reſpect to every ſin.

I will importune thee, Lord, for meekneſs and temperance: O, be thou my dread! I will ſeek for this wiſdom as for hidden treaſure. O for example and conduct agreeable thereto, which would give weight to admonitions!

Remember well, and bear in mind, this life is ſentenced to troubles of various kinds, and ſo do thou expect and prepare for them!

A lively ſenſe of the vaſt and unmerited love and bounty of God to me, with ſupplication for humiliation, ſo that I may receive evil as well as good, chearfully as an obedient child.

A ſight of the imperfection of our ſtate here, in various trials, dangers, and weakneſſes, and an humble hope in death (bleſſed be the Lord!) as a gate to a far better life.

A lively,

A lively, awakening ſenſe of the proximity of death, even upon the moſt ſanguine calculation, with proper conſequences.

O ſweet ſolitude, thou avenue of truth, prudence, and forecaſt, temporal and ſpiritual!

It is clear there muſt be a better ſtate in futurity; for this is a ſtate of great imperfection, a ſtate of fighting, watching, doubting, longing and ſighing.

I humbly hope God is giving a degree of faith, patience, and perſeverance in the ſpiritual warfare, and ſome little progreſs in the arduous path. O the time, pains and expence devoted to natural knowledge! I will now, with the Lord's concurrence, turn about and purſue, with equal, or ſuperior zeal, the ſpiritual: and particularly the gift of meekneſs.

The refuſal of a fee from a poor perſon, gave more pleaſure than the receiving one from the rich.

A golden ſaying of a miniſter—— "An elder "that doth not inſtruct his family in religion, is "a lamp without oil."

O for a daily ripening for a happy tranſlation! but O how hard to maintain a conſiſtent character!

I had rather be a babe or *a*, *b*, *c*, ſcholar in Chriſt's ſchool, than a doctor in the world's.

My old coadjutor ſeized with a paralytick ſtroke, an awakening *Memento Mori*: Lord, ſanctify it!

God hath wounded us, as a ſociety, and taken away moſt of our pillars or chiefs.

A ſilent meeting, and profitable: an aſpiration from the ſtate of childhood and weakneſs to that of manhood in Chriſt, to which all things encourage.

O the imperfections of this our ſtate! ſurely, the other country muſt be a better one: why then ſo fooliſhly fond of this?

Our trials are neither Stocks, Beatings, nor Priſons, but alluring temptations, from which, O Lord, deliver.

I will

I will not eſtimate myſelf by the opinion of men, but by thy judgments, Lord, and deſpiſe myſelf.

" The day of the Lord is on pleaſant pictures," even our natural ſtudies, weaning from the inordinate love thereof, as encroaching on the love due to my neighbour.

We ſhould be able to ſay to children and ſervants, " Follow me as I follow Chriſt."

Lord, ſanctify my ſtudies, with a perpetual view to charity, not oſtentation.

Reflections on the earthquake, which was vaſtly, ſhockingly, extenſive. Thoſe that periſhed are gone but a little before thee, and perhaps by a death not more painful. See again the inſtability of all worldly grandeur and riches!

Learn to repine leſs at ſmall evils! Thus God ſpeaketh once, yea twice: O may'ſt thou dread his voice!

The work is good; but where are the men to do it? See *Ezek.* xxii. 30, 31, by whom, the Lord ſays—— *I ſought for a man among them that ſhould make up the Hedge, and ſtand in the Gap before me for the land, that I ſhould not deſtroy it; but I found none.*

Therefore have I poured out my indignation upon them, I have conſumed them with the fire of my wrath; their own way have I recompenſed upon their heads.

O, how little converſation, among thoſe called Chriſtians, about chriſtianity! Earth engroſſes almoſt all.

Lord give me the true ſpirit of charity in my exerciſe among the poor!

O! why am I not more humbled by the daily views of mortality, diſeaſes, earthquakes and my own infirmities? Lord, improve thoſe occaſions to me more effectually! pierce my heart with them, and give me a heart of fleſh!

I rejoiced

I rejoiced with greater joy than that of harveſt, at my ſpiritual victory yeſterday: Lord eſtabliſh my goings!

Nothing will make malleable equal to the fire ordinarily: and ſo ſuffering and affliction: indeed God can do it in proſperity, but not without great vigilance.

Phyſic is leſs precious in my view, having for its object the welfare of the mortal body only: Lord, raiſe up to the * Medicina Mentis.

The Lord is mortifying to natural ſtudies, and elevating to ſpiritual, adored be his goodneſs! "Draw me, Lord, and I will run after thee."

If the Lord be omnipotent and good, why is not ſin, (my burden) taken away? doubtleſs the fault is mine; I muſt go deeper down into contrition: Lord, haſten this work before the ſun ſets.

Regeneration is the thing wanting among us; ceaſe then to wonder at the fruits of the fleſh.

Lord, go on to rebuke and regulate me more and more, and let my path be that of the juſt man: let the holy progreſſion to maturity be witneſſed!

O for the † Medela Mentis! Phyſic is not the ultimate end; for very often diſeaſes are moral benefits, not moral evils; whereas every degree of vice is ever evil. Lord, raiſe, and now give the meek and reſigned diſpoſition, and unity of will to thine accordingly!

Lord, let thy voice in the earthquakes awaken me to a lively ſenſe of the uncertainty of life and all earthly dependencies, and prepare for another country!

A bleſſed time at meeting: ſome tears, and my heart raviſhed with that which is beyond outward medicine,

* Medicine of the Soul. † The cure of the Soul.

medicine, and can corroborate the inward man to reſiſt the world: O, the depth of the love of God in thus waiting for my advancement in ſpirit!

Days without number have I preferred nature to grace; but will now turn about: Lord favour! wilt thou, indeed, who commandeſt to ſeek the kingdom of heaven firſt, accept of this afternoon tribute of my declining day?

I will humble myſelf under this view of my unworthineſs. Surely nothing can happen that I have not deſerved. Lord, give patience under all croſs events, both great and ſmall!

More meekneſs, and more temperance the chief objects in view: Lord, haſten and perfect thy work before I go! This is a meer infant ſtate, a ſtate of ſowing, of care and, and ſighing;—— a glimpſe of a hope of a happier immortality.

A ſecret hope that God will ſtill farther looſen from the world, and from nature. O the haſtening night calls for double diligence!

We ſometimes blaſpheme God in relation to the weather, even him who formed the winds, the ſtorm, and the rain: Lord, preſerve from this folly, preſumption and ingratitude! and, Lord, give reſignation to croſs-events, and ſincerely to thank thee for them.

O for more of the name and fear of the Lord in natural affairs!

O my ſoul! what haſt thou to truſt to at the hour approaching? O for a more entire conformity and reſignation of will!

I have not been pierced through with thy holy fear, but have often ſlipt and fallen for want of a due degree of it. And I have been wanting in a due proportion of the ſpiritual improvement of the uncommon opportunities afforded: Lord, look down on this my evening and mend it.

O the

O the poor ſtate and impending deſolation of our ſociety! Lord, prepare us to make head againſt it by faſting and praying!

A veteran from America in the ſervice, at the age of ſixty-ſix—— Thus it is the glory of religion and ſcience to be fruitful in old age.

A precept of prudence truly chriſtian: prepare whom thou art to reprove by previous ſoftneſs.

O, what a trial is proſperity! the reins muſt be held tighter in time of plenty.

"Thy will be done on earth"—— is ſpeaking a lie ſo long as impatience continues.

God never intended this pilgrimage of a few years, full of temptations and dangers, for a place of happineſs, and none but fools think or aim at it as ſuch.

A long continued and very great warp to nature hath my mind acquired; but O now for the ſolid realities of grace in the ſpiritual cleanſing, ſtrengthening, ſweetening, and fertilizing!

On reading the tranſactions on the polypes and corralines: O the wonders of the creation! Lord, the earth and ſea are full of thy glory!

O the depth of the riches of God's bounty, who hath given to ſee good days in temporals and ſpirituals: he hath given to reap the fruit of the travail of my ſoul with content; but above all, in the proſpect and humble hope of compleat redemption!

A true ſaying: "If our chriſtianity be no where but in our books, there is no difference between a chriſtian and an infidel." Lord, it is the life of the words I pant after: O give it me quickly.

Lord thou haſt ſhaken the dominion of Satan in my heart, I adore thy goodneſs: overthrow it totally I beſeech thee!

O for a conſiſtent conduct, in a deliverance, firſt, from all fear of the world (the true character of a ſpiritual

a ſpiritual captive) and ſecondly from the fear of death: ſuch is the extent and glory of evangelical liberty!

How hath the Lord removed by death moſt of my neareſt acquaintance! O may the ſenſe of it repreſs my vehemence!

God's goodneſs inconceivably great in affording me a ſituation, not only prompting to, but enforcing purity of life.

Is it ſo that God ſo loved the world that he ſent his Son—— uſhered in by preceding prophecies and miraculous concomitant events; to which, add his life, preaching, works, death, reſurrection, aſcenſion, the gift of the holy ſpirit, the deſtruction of Idolatry, and the propagation of real Chriſtianity for ſome centuries? And why do not theſe things awaken——? And ſhall not real chriſtianity be revived; but by whoſe means? O give me faithfulneſs in my lot!

A clear viſion and love of grace above nature, and an acknowledgment of the peculiar favour of the illumination God gave me concerning one of the three capital enemies of our ſouls, viz. *The world:* O Lord, thou who overcameſt the world, give me power alſo to overcome it!

I doubt that great bleſſing of the coming of Chriſt in the fleſh is, by many, too much forgotten.

O my ſoul awake to ſuperior meekneſs! art thou come as far as ſome of the heathens? Does guilt blacken in proportion to the light received? where then is thy ſupra-ethnick perfection?

Shall Horace the heathen outdo me? * *Lenior & melior fis accedente ſenecta?* O where is the efficacy of the divine gift? muſt there yet be another baptiſm? Peter wept bitterly when awakened: Lord, grant I may weep more, who have not been clear

* Doſt thou become milder and better with advancing age?

clear of denying thee: thou haſt awakened; awaken more and more!

I am rich outwardly, but poor inwardly, particularly in faith, in love, in zeal and courage, in patience, in purity, in repentance, in fear, in vigilance, in humility, and in ſobriety: Lord, help!

The preſent deſertion of the offspring of the rich no new thing—— 1 Cor. 1. "Ye ſee your calling, "brethren, not many rich, not many wiſe, not "many mighty, not many noble."——

Lord, let the fire now burn againſt evil in all degrees, even in this day of proſperity, as much as in that of my deep affliction!

Reſolved to decline ſuperfluous viſits in order to finiſh the day's work, night advancing.

O thou who overcameſt the world, fortify me againſt the ſmiles thereof in riches, which beget pride, inſolence, anger, luſt and intemperance.

The ſuperior excellency of the * Medela mentis to that of the body, appeared thus:

Firſt, The ſpiritual maladies are univerſal, far otherwiſe than thoſe of the body.

Second, The ſuccours for them are not attended with the uncertainties of the other.

Third, The ſpiritual maladies are abſolute evils, and endanger everlaſting ruin: not ſo thoſe of the body; but often productive both of moral and ſpiritual good.

The peculiar glory and end of the goſpel is the revelation of life eternal on the one hand, and God's wrath for ſin on the other: the impreſſion of this illumination was ſtrong.

O the extent of "thy will be done on earth"! It demoliſhes all murmurings under all events, great and ſmall.

Fervent gratitude for the clear evidences of chriſtianity, as to the perſonal appearance of Chriſt on earth:

* Cure of the Soul.

earth: O for a ſuitable conformity to his precepts!

Behold the pittance of publick worſhip among us, eight hours in a week, ſcarce equal to one night's ſleep, will God, indeed, accept of it alone? ſurely, nay!

In deaths often: who ſo rouſed to prepare for eternity!

Now is the trying time: ſhall the miniſters and elders deſert God, or cleave to him? For if they fail, the failure becomes popular and general; like a national bankruptcy.

At meeting. I worſhipped divine goodneſs this day, which, as in youth, ſo now in age, is calling for the ſupreme love; and as then beyond childiſh delights, ſo now from and above the more manly of natural ſtudies. Remember well, that ſcience without charity is but oſtentation.

O how zealous were the primitive chriſtians in propagating chriſtianity? but how little zeal have we, and why? Becauſe we have not enough witneſſed its ſweetneſs and priviledges.

One great evidence of the truth of chriſtianity was its effects on the lives of its profeſſors, particularly the firſt three hundred years: but alſo! this argument hath loſt its force now, I think through unbelief.

O thou that was with me in deep affliction, be with me in this ſun-ſhine day; and thou, who ſaidſt to the lame, walk; ſay unto the fierce, be meek, and to the proud, be humble.

On reading, on the types: O what a bleſſing to us and me, that the antitype, the ſubſtance is come, ſhall we not walk worthy hereof.

O how trifling and worldly our converſation, and all about the body; not a word of Chriſt though we profeſs him!

Awake and maintain the dignity of thy profeſſion, even as called out of all ſuperfluities in buſineſs and in ſtudy; and moreover, even out of fighting

fighting and all diſquietudes under every revolution in the ſtate!

What we fools call evil, is good in the view of heaven, *for example*, ſcarcity for abuſed plenty.

P. J. dying, and J. A. caducous: the Lord is mowing down my aſſociates in an awakening manner.

A deep ſenſe of God's love: may it operate unto a reconcilement to little croſs events!

SOLILOQUY on finiſhing a Work.

Lord, thou haſt been peculiarily bountiful to me on this occaſion: thou haſt indulged unworthy me with great leiſure and length of days for this purpoſe, with ability and uncommon opportunities in a number of favourable incidents, which I have improved with a view to uſe, and the love of truth, harmony and juſt proportion; and thou haſt crowned with a degree of ſucceſs? thou haſt given modeſty in a due regard to the ſentiments and help of others, and prudence and forecaſt in a juſt ſenſe of approaching death, and the uncertainty of life; thou haſt alſo given liberality, induſtry, zeal and conſtancy, and bleſſed and ſweetned my ſolitude! and now I have as great a pleaſure, or a greater, than thoſe who have formed beautiful plantations, and have the proſpect of living in my labours, after my death, to the good of my ſurvivors: money was never my view: I cannot ſay the ſame of honour; but ever accompanied with the idea of uſefulneſs and not the mere phantom.

Thou broughteſt to the brink of the grave, and raiſedſt up, and highly ſanctifiedſt my afflictions!

Some troubles, on this occaſion I thank thee, Lord, for ſending—— that my love to temporals may be imbittered, and I raiſed up in the ſpiritual analogy to the inward power repreſented by water,

in

in its cleanſing, ſweetning, and corroborating quality, operations on the mind of as far more importance and dignity, than thoſe on the body, as heaven is above the earth.

At meeting—— an humble confidence of ſome ſpiritual advancement, thro' mercy.

O for the reconcilement to trouble, inſeparably annexed to this life!

Lord, thou haſt given to be content with a little, and to enjoy the fruits of my labours ſweetly.

O the length, breadth, and depth of God's mercy, on a ſober review of my paſt life! He was all along underneath in the midſt of divers infirmities and ſins: I ought to have been more heavenly minded, unto which diſpoſition God is now calling with a louder voice.

The knowing the terrors and chaſtiſements of the Lord, are marks of ſonſhip, and vice verſa, the want of them, of illegitimacy and forfeiting the inheritance.

Although this be not thy reſt, thou art daily diſappointed in endeavouring to make it ſo: for troubles are both unavoidable and profitable.

O, bleſſed be the Lord, who is wooing to ſuperior purity, not by dead precept, but by living example.

To our moſt ſplendid and agreeable entertainments is annexed a ſting: I am not fond of, but decline, them: Lord help!——And is there not a fellowſhip without a ſting, even that of the ſaints in light? and ſhall I not aſpire after it?

A ſweet commemoration of God's mercy to us, in caſting our lot in this age of proteſtantiſm and zeal to carry on the reformation from all the remaining corruptions of popery.

Did not the Lord give me, in my youngeſt days, a weapon to attack antichriſt, and which was exerciſed accordingly? But now earthly impediments

more

more removed, and death impending, a louder call is heard, even to join with faithful brethren in aſpiring to a complete reformation and reſtoration, and to an uniformity of conduct in all reſpects, according to my own doctrine. Lord give the power and ſpirit.

Got to the ſchool-meeting with a ſtruggle: the body and its concerns embarraſs the ſoul in its flight.

On ſome provocations from unrighteous accuſations, ſilence was my ſweet refuge.

A memorable ſilent meeting to be recorded in my annals; Lord, rectify my ſpirit in eating, drinking, ſtudying, and in ſpeaking. Lord, I will dwell with the devouring fire againſt ſin, in its very conception, even under thy chaſtiſement! The greateſt miſchief is, to deſire to be great rather than to be thus ſlain: ſurely the Lord was eminently with me this day—— withal a clear ſight of our ſpiritual poverty, as a people, and its cauſe, viz.—— a carnal minded people can be no otherwiſe: wherefore, beware, leſt thou be a partaker with them.

O what time, ſtudy, collation, review, examination reiterated: what travels and correſpondencies; what reading, what expences unſpared; and all for the meer knowledge of outward medicine! but how little for the inward? Behold, I turn about: Lord, lead on!

There is leſs danger from ſilence than from bad ſpeaking: unleſs God help, we are in danger to become a prey to fools or deſigning men.

O my groveling heart how ſhall I ſtem the torrent of earthly purſuits in natural knowledge? How ſhall heaven reſume the upper ſeat every day? *Hic labor, hoc opus.*

O the deformity of ſin in others, far leſs hideous in myſelf: Lord, take away the vizard of ſelf-love!

O the contemptibleneſs of converſation! O how little ſpiritual converſe any where!

Of the infirm and corruptible body, both thy own and others, enough: I now devote my veſper to the ſoul—— God leads into ſolitude after meeting: I will give way to his drawings.

At Meeting—— a clear viſion of the impeſfection and unhappineſs of man in his moſt flouriſhing ſtate, whether of riches or knowledge, both ſtages of temptation and great danger—— and the tendency is, to weaning from this world and to deſpiſe it; ſo Lord raiſe and help!

May the fear of the Lord mingle itſelf with my feaſting and ſtudies!

Why ſo eaſy under the ſpiritual captivity of our brethren? Lord, awaken to a ſympathy with thy ſeed!

Soul, remember thy vow on God's ſignal viſitation three years ago!

A degree of improvement in ſpirituals ſince this æra, in daily retirements, and in a reſtraint laid on natural ſtudies: but ſtill perverſeneſs repullulates; wherefore double the guard henceforwards.

Our politicks wear a diſmal aſpect; but nearer home, even within the verge of our little ſociety, what proſpect have we when miniſters neglect the youth, and they, and the elders devolve the care of them on others?

O the precarioufneſs of our tenure, amidſt almoſt continual alarms of deaths! Lord, ſanctify theſe events! ſurely, moderation ſhould be the ſequel.

See the fruit-bearing vine, how it thrives among rocks, and better than when manured: and ſo may we with little preaching.

At a meeting chiefly ſilent, and to me ſweetly illuminative and attractive in a cloſe and home language: "Aſſiduity and perſeverance in temporals has been my caſe: now Lord, grant it may obtain in ſpirituals, even in ſuch an advance to meekneſs and temperance as may never be defeated: and, ſurely,

ſurely, God hath not given this thirſt after righteouſneſs but in order that it may be ſatisfied: and ſurely, he who hath brought to the birth will enable to bring forth.

O the danger of fame and riches! I will fly from both.

Chriſt's reproof to them who were ſkilful in the face of the ſky, but not in diſcerning the times of his coming, is now applicable to an inordinate ſtudy of nature, complicated with an inattention to the preſent wretched ſtate of chriſtianity: Lord, raiſe! Is not thy holy name unhallowed, and our holy profeſſion, as thy peculiar people, daily violated? what progreſs of the ſpirit of chriſtianity among its profeſſors, and much leſs among Jews and heathens: and at whoſe doors doth this lie, and who lays it to heart?

All croſſneſs is a breach of "*Thy will be done.*"

"Do leſs in medicines and nature," ſaith the Lord, who was with me, drawing on to heavenly-mindedneſs: O for the footſteps of thoſe who avoided worldly incumbrances! and now, Lord, ſupport in holding up a light in this reſpect! long have I purſued nature, and only partially found her.

Reſolved to demean more pioufly before my ſervants, and teach them by example.

Paſſionate wrongly, even in the cauſe of truth.

And is it ſo, that we are favoured with ſuperior light? yes: wherefore, O my ſoul, awake to evangelical holineſs!

Will the Lord, indeed, accept of this old age of mine? ſurely, not without the real regeneration of the heavenly temper to a predominancy over the earthly: Lord, raiſe!

O for ſome proportion of holineſs ſuitable to the glory of the goſpel ſtate, the revelation of all this ſuperior light and love!

Some ſecret hopes, in my evening ſurvey, that I am making ſome ſucceſsful advances in purity of love and life, ſince my ſignal affliction.

"*Fear God more than men,*" ſaith the ſon of God: but, O this precept! how is it daily violated, in reſpect to our fears of an outward enemy, compared to our fears of the loſs of divine favour?

Behold the autumnal leaves, and haſten thy work, thy ſpiritual work.

In media verſamur morte: that a phyſician ſhould be earthly minded, nothing can ſhew greater ſtupidity, yet ſo it is: Lord, quicken!

Lord, let the diſmal ſpectacles frequently preſented to me awaken and pierce my ſoul deeply, and moderate every worldly affection!

Behold, thy fifty-ninth year is almoſt at an end, and thou haſt long been devoted to nature; it is high time to give the precedence to grace, and to proceed in the juſt man's path; yea, and to witneſs a ripening of the inward man for a better ſtate, thy ſecret hope, for ſurely, this is not thy reſt, nor is any worldly object a ſufficient fund of joy and comfort. So come increaſing light, and truth, and love.

O happy experience of the apoſtle in his old age, "*Though our outward man periſh, yet the inward* "*man is renewed* day by day."

A common ſpecies of blaſphemy, little attended to, is crying out againſt the weather: God forgive us and me, who ought to know better things.

At meeting humbled thus: will the Lord, indeed accept of this my late evening offering? not without double diligence: ſo, Lord, enable me to double it; and above all earthly treaſure, give meekneſs, temperance, and chriſtian courage!

Lord, if it be thy will, open a ſelect meeting of ſouls united in grace, even as in nature is already done!

done! O what a poor caſe is this, that there ſhould be ſo little communion of ſaints upon earth!

The Apocalypſe affords a wonderful treaſure of divine knowledge: God foreknoweth, and foretelleth all the evils befalling his church, to the comfort of the wavering and drooping! O what a clear and diſtinct portraiture of the church of Rome there!

Lord, as thou haſt animated me a little againſt faſhion-mongers, who yet will not hear; ſanctify this event by bringing further off from their ſpirit in all reſpects!

O thou preacher (and what is more, writer) of moderation, look to thy ſtanding, and thy heavenly-mindedneſs!

The meeting ſilent; but luminous, particularly thus; "The goſpel was preached to the poor, not to the full, the inflated and drunk with proſperity, nor to the ſurfeited with cares; but to thoſe in want, to the weak, and ignorant; and ſo in my low way, to the children."

At a ſilent meeting, God was with me ſweetly: Lord, haſten thy work in my ſwiftly declining days: O, I fear leſt I ſhould be numbered amongſt hypocrites.

The engagements after meeting, although inevitable, were hurtful.

In three years I loſt ſix intimates by death; yet the Lord has bountifully given ſome new.

A memorable æra, wherein the Father's love was ſenſibly felt, in exalting heaven above earth, grace above nature; and a clear viſion that we were never intended for perfection by nature, and, therefore, that this world ſhould never be our reſt.

On reading Newton on Daniel, a ſecret exultation on a conviction of the authenticity of this prophecy, and of the truth of God's promiſe to ſet up a kingdom that ſhall never have end: but what are we poor men, that God ſhould favour us with ſuch

a revelation

a revelation? ſurely we muſt be accountable: Lord, I bow before thee!

Are we not really profeſſing to come, and ſhall we not come, out of the dreadful apoſtacy into which the church hath fallen? Shall not I, according to the utmoſt of my ability, join with every effort hereunto tending? and ſhall I not hence be animated to zeal in our peculiar profeſſion, as a people thus called.

God bleſſed this week in a degree of conſiſtent walking in heavenly mindedneſs.

On a review—— My love to ſpirituals is a little advanced, and my underſtanding in the chriſtian religion enlightened.

It is a time of trial in the withdrawing of the clouds: I feel ſome of the weight of it.

Newton on Daniel, and John has given me a greater veneration for the ſcriptures than ever; and, alſo, conviction of their divine authority; and now the grand impending conſequence, which I pray God to fix in my heart, is to join with the witneſſes that propheſy in ſack-cloth, or with Sion in diſtreſs.

O the unmerited inеſtimable goodneſs of the Lord, in placing us in theſe goſpel days! may the weight of the obligation ſink deep;

A lively ſenſe of the bounty of God to man, in the prophecies concerning the coming of Chriſt.

At meeting—— May the frequent objects of mortality have this influence, to give greater moderation in all temporal purſuits!

Navigation a lively type of the chriſtian life: I am near my port: I have often been in danger of ſinking, but always preſerved, bleſſed be the Lord!

A thought of farther medical correſpondence from the country; but as the origin and whole ſcope of ſuch correſpondence is meer body, (hitherto too much idolized, but to be ſo no more) the trumpet of God ſounds to eternity: and "Thy kingdom come

come, is the prevailing, or to be the prevailing petition, desire, and scope."

O the obligation from christianity! and the peculiar glory of this day of Christ! but what am I the better? I am travelling and fighting: Lord, help; for great is my weakness!

Ten visits absorbed my matin: scarce a word of Christ to-day.

Struggled hard and got to meeting, which was favoured with a fresh divine visitation: as in my youth, to the following purpose: "Whoso loveth father or mother, brother &c. more than me, is not worthy of me:" Thus God is weaning; a painful operation, as it must needs prove, where so long continued a bent has been to meer nature: so, Lord, give only to touch with a trembling hand! and, soul, remember, that

Trees deeply rooted in the ground
Are shiver'd when they're torn away.

God is bringing forward in a degree suitably to conviction.

I have sucked at the breasts of this world, and am not satisfied.

O what a favour this, to be planted in the true church, out of Babylon, and its corruptions: and where every motive draws to a holy life, agreeable to the doctrine and precepts of our Lord.

Where is thy site? in the midst of a revolting and tottering people: Lord, support, and join me to the few.

Adored be the tender, unmerited care of providence over us unworthy mortals, in leaving us such a description of Babylon as can hardly be mistaken, and warning us to flee from it.

My soul is devoted to suffer with Christ in our low state.

Lord, thy private strokes carry healing along with them, adored be thy goodness: I will kiss the rod.

An

An awakening call from earth, and all regard to temporals, ſounding louder and louder, even as the remainder of the journey can be but ſhort.

I am an eleventh hour ſervant, and will give the right hand to thoſe who have given up the morning of their day.

The Lord ſaith, " The ſacred condition is, neutrality to temporals.

Our diſcipline is calculated, not for the deſtruction but preſervation of the members of our ſociety, even in an early care, not ſhutting the door when the ſteed is ſtolen: but, O the ſtupidity and earthly-mindedneſs of the people, who will ſtill worſhip mammon, and not come up either as elders and viſitors, or as miniſters.

Impends the ſchool meeting: I muſt decline preceding hurries. Lord, bring down Lucifer, and all that would exalt! Methought the Lord was with me this morning in bending my mind to patience under worldly embarraſments.

I diſcharged my duty in ſpeaking, and had great peace on ſo doing.

O my groveling ſoul, ever prone to nature and to body? look up to Jeſus!

On my late loſs: The Lord hath given, and the Lord hath taken away, bleſſed be the Lord!

He hath, however, only threatned, as a tender Father, (even as he has often done) not hurted, having only deprived of ſuperfluous riches, and ſaid, " thou ſhalt not be great."

He hath long indulged thee in thy wiſhes: it is ſelf-love to expect no croſs.

My anniverſary is opened, for celebrating God's deliverance of me from ſudden death: I lie open to hear what the Lord will ſay. Moſt of my old acquaintance are dead!

O the obligation to faithfulneſs and circumſpection, which my public appearance, as a ſpiritual

author

author ſuggeſts! and, O Lord, my groveling heart ſtill wants to be lifted up to ſpirituals more!

Innumerable are God's favours to me, particularly in placing me among my betters, and in furniſhing me not only with precepts, but a few living examples among ourſelves and others, inciting to heavenly mindedneſs amidſt the general revolt.

Our ſpiritual politicians ſearched the nuiſance of inſolvency, but did not go to the bottom of it, viz. The love of the world.

At meeting—Enamoured with the peculiar beauty of our miniſtry and diſcipline, and an union of ſoul with divers elder brethren, as helpmeets in the glorious cauſe.

God has bleſſed my love and candour to brethren authors proving a happy means of victory and triumph over an invidious adverſary; but I now aſpire to a higher fellowſhip, even the communion of ſaints.

What is the ſtudy of medicine but of the body, whoſe evils are often good in their conſequences, and but few. Days, weeks, months and years, even too much of my precious time hath been devoted to this ſubject: I will therefore ſlacken my courſe: ſo help, Lord, and give a holy indifference to nature.

Mat. xvi. "Ye hypocrites, ye can diſcern the face of the ſky, and can ye not diſcern the face of theſe times?." Now hath God vouchſafed to favour me with the ſight of Sion in diſtreſs, one of whoſe ſympathizing ſons I deſire to be.

Impends the viſit to families, even the adminiſtration of ſpiritual medicine, to be magnified above the natural on the preſent occaſion, if God will. Here is a large field, little leſs than five hundred ſouls: Lord, qualify for the work, and diſpoſſeſs of pride; This petition was in a good degree anſwered, bleſſed be the Lord!

At

At a ſilent meeting—— attacked with ſleepineſs; but light and fire aroſe on the altar, bleſſed be the Lord!

I am neither apoſtle, nor prophet, but a poor chriſtian, ſignally called at the eleventh hour, the leaſt among many brethren; as ſuch, behold two poſts, and ſeek for the qualification, viz. viſiting families, and ſome of our country meetings.

See how God puniſhed his corrupt church by the ſcourge of mahometaniſm, and tremble: ſurely, deſolation, without divine help, hangs over our little ſociety. O give the ſpirit of Abdiel!

At meeting—— O the obligation of our profeſſion, which is no other than an abſolute renunciation of the honours, profits, and pleaſures of this world.

The blood of the martyrs is the ſeed of the church: a maxim diametrically oppoſite to thoſe of our tithe-payers and illuminators.

At meeting—— a clear and bleſſed irradiation to this purpoſe: As I have ſinned againſt that friend who is above all others, even not only my creator, but my redeemer, in innumerable ſhortneſſes and ſome poſitive ſins, I am a greater offender than my greateſt offender is againſt me; and, therefore, I now firſt forgave him.

Now impends the viſit: to whom? To a people ſwallowed up in indifference to ſpirituals, and in the love of the world. Is not all this as wrong and as heretical as ever? why then not more awakened? Lord, raiſe and quicken. Is not the teſtimony againſt ſuperfluities as precious as ever? are not we a profeſſed ſet of regulars called out of the world?

Grant thy holy preſence, Lord, in my faſting, my commerce, and my ſtudies, both divine and human!

Thou haſt made me a fruitful bough: I worſhip thy goodneſs!

A new

A new ſcene of light opens, and different conceptions of the ſtate of virtue and vice in this life, from thoſe in my youth: bleſſed be the Lord!

O the bleſſing of chriſtianity! but what has it done for me? It has opened the hope of a better ſtate, eſpecially ſince God ſhewed me that nature and all its beauties are not the *ſummum bonum*, nor our reſt.

Lord, increaſe my love! O for a degree of fruitfulneſs proportionable to the light received and leiſure afforded!

God gave to ſee that the education of youth is of far greater importance and neceſſity than phyſick: thus my ſituation is low and humble, and inferior to the ſchoolmaſters.

The meeting, though ſilent, was luminous thus: Is thy election ſure? No: without mercy I muſt undoubtedly periſh.

A good hint: "Fear thy ſervants, and thoſe with whom thou converſeſt, leſt thy example deſtroy the effect of thy precept." O how hard to rule well!

An awakening conſideration, that but few enter in at the ſtraight gate! What marks have I?

Sea and land, earth and water, have been croſſed and ranſacked for the body: ſurely, it is high time now to take care of the mind; even now, this precious now, which God is bountifully beſtowing.

Went to Timohoe-meeting with a minor: may the old badge of diſcipleſhip be renewed! for ſurely, it is in danger of being loſt, men are taking their flight on this ſummer's day, leaving Chriſt, and embracing this preſent world. Read an epiſtle there, which, however not finding altogether ſuitable to the auditory, God gave courage and wiſdom to ſupply the defect. They want our help and ſhall have it, if the Lord permit.

O dear

A dear Socio, his country's hope, in a fever: God ſpeaketh once, yea twice, and ſhakes our hopes and dependencies.

Remember how few of us come up in an uniform conſiſtent teſtimony agreeable to our peculiar profeſſion againſt the purſuits of the vain honours, profits and pleaſures of the world: Lord awaken yet more and more to the conſideration of theſe important points!

At meeting--- a moſt lively and clear irradiation, tending to no leſs than changing the old earthly habit and bent of my mind: Lord ſanctify it! O, how much pains, among others to get outward riches, and with me to get knowledge; but how little to get meekneſs in particular, and patience!

Proceeded on the viſit, I ſaw that there was great occaſion for it: and the want of hands afforded a very diſmal proſpect: the Lord honoured me with a poſt of being one of the three gapſtoppers on this occaſion. But what are the reſt of our brethren doing? ſurely inſenſibility and a worldly ſpirit prevails.

At meeting----O the long forbearance and bounty of God to me, during a ſeries of infirmities and ſplendid worldly-mindedneſs ſhining with the falſe luſtre of moral righteouſneſs!

Ibid. An awful truth from a ſiſter: "The cauſe of there being ſo few burthen-bearers is unfaithfulneſs."

On occaſion of our dealing out private admonitions, a degree of fear ſeizes, leſt the converſation ſhould not be conſiſtent; Lord, increaſe my fear!

Who is left to conſider and deplore the ſtate of the church? Earth and politicks ſwallow the people up.

It is evident that divers of our brethren are aſleep in carnal ſecurity, and become formaliſts; Lord, mend them!

Dr.—— a young phyſician, deceaſed, God blaſts our dependencies: ſo, Lord, wean from the breaſts of this world!

A ſight of omiſſions many, and commiſſions not a few: Lord, be merciful!

As in nature, ſo in grace, it is much eaſier to be phyſician to the poor: in grace to the ſpiritually poor, to them that know their wants; to the ignorant, and weak and unprejudiced, as children: and accordingly, unto the poor was the goſpel preached in our Saviour's time.

What is the epidemick of our ſpiritual conſtitution? ſurely the love of the world: and ſhall there be no care for curing it? Lord, lift up and quicken!

No man was ever made for perfection in ſcience, but, ſurely, goodneſs of heart is attainable by all.

Opened the firſt eſſay of a monthly retreat: a day, in which light, truth, and favour reigned.

Days without number have I preferred earth to heaven, nature to grace, behold, I turn about, and with a weak and obſcure faith view thee, Jeſus, whom I have ſlighted, even as unto whom all power in heaven and earth is committed, as the ſearcher of hearts and judge of quick and dead!

I have been very barren and unfruitful in converſation, declining to hold up the teſtimony before men.

In my ſtudies, I have, indeed ever had uſefulneſs in view; but with a mixture of ambition, not from pure charity. I have preferred the health of men's bodies to that of their ſouls: Lord, I have ſinned; and as thou haſt enlightened me to ſee the ſuperior excellency of the ſoul, ſend forth more light and more love, thou gracious fountain of both!

O the bounty of God to me! O ſweet evening of the day unmerited! almoſt every obſtacle to heroick virtue is removed: I will extol divine goodneſs in ſelf-abaſement.

O Lord,

O Lord, why have ſo many deaths of my acquaintances ſo little of a penetrating influence on my mind! Lord, quicken to more ſenſibility!

At ſchool-meeting—— I gave and received inſtruction, particularly as to meek behaviour before ſervants.

For ſome inſpirations adapted to the preſent ſtate, and for the zeal and conſtancy thou haſt given in proſecuting the viſit under diſcouragements, I thank thee, Lord! Lord go on to bleſs and increaſe my little ſpiritual fund!

A viſit to the illuminators:—— Lord, give more courage, and more antipathy to war and fighting: thou haſt led the way to ſave and not to deſtroy. Surely we, the called out of the world, ſhould have nothing to do either with their rejoicings or mournings: but, O for the prevalence of the heavenly power and ſpirit which alone can enable to ſtand ſtedfaſt in this ſingularity, both in form and power.

The viſiting is a deeper work than I apprehended: here is a raw and undiſciplined youth: haſt thou no fund of wiſdom (ſpiritual wiſdom) to impart.

Lord ſupport in the ſervice of the poor, all whoſe demands, however, I cannot ſatisfy without deſtroying myſelf.

A good prayer for the youth: but, is it enough to cry, God help, and not deſcend to give them the help he hath enabled us to miniſter to them, even in inſtruction? But, O how few anointed for this work!

"God ſo loved the world that he ſent his only begotten Son into the world"; A moſt precious declaration, far more valuable than any poſition in philoſophy.

O the depth of this love, that God ſhould ſo regard men! But, O the contempt with which this precious meſſage is received! and O the days, weeks, months, and years, that I have ſpent in inferior ſtudies.

My

My ſpiritual predeceſſors have been tardy in ſpiritual expeditions: Lord, give me not only to ſee, but to fill up the defect, according to ability and opportunity! It is a time for deep mourning; the Lord hath remarkably ſmitten both our ſpiritual ſhepherds, and our temporal chiefs: Lord, enable to ſtand!

Is it ſo, that miniſters and elders do now give way? Lord, grant that I may not be numbered among them by thee! O Lord, increaſe my fervency, as the reckoning day approacheth, and thy long forbearance towards me hath been unutterably great under a long ſeries of ſins and infirmities, ſhall I now abuſe thy goodneſs? Surely, nay.

Is it ſo, that we are diſtinguiſhed by an evangelical miniſtry? Why then have we ſo little of it? ſurely, for want of love, and that ſome other object hath ſtolen away the hearts of the people; and ſo we are in that ſpirit of the prieſts: "No money, no Pater Noſter."

What can ſhew the depth of apoſtacy more than this? the primitive chriſtians gave up their own, and had all things in common: the moderns covet other mens; an alarming truth.

Let impending death pierce my ſoul! I have indeed, been awakened through thy goodneſs, Lord, but not enough: thou art ſounding the death alarm every day in my ears, Lord circumciſe my ears!

Send forth thy love, God of love, and ſweeten my ſourneſs, and be with me in the hour of temptation.

At the morning meeting this query pierced my heart: "Of what advantage hath thy religious profeſſion been?"

Anſwer—— (in the afternoon) in a holy hunger after righteouſneſs; in a daily croſs-bearing in oppoſition to the worldly ſpirit; in being limited in my

moſt

moſt darling ſtudies; in the hope of the goſpel, as a revelation of a better ſtate, and in a preparation for death.

A grateful hope and ſenſe that God hath, in ſome degree, wrought a good work, and a reſolution to give way to the continued ſolicitations of his love: amidſt all this, Lucifer was at my right hand, to puff up.

O the dignity and vaſt extent of thy profeſſion as a Quaker, even as one called out of the corruptions of the age, in which thou liveſt, not in ſpeech and garb merely, but in the renunciation of every ſuperfluous and vain honour, profit, and pleaſure, as a chriſtian, at firſt ſight diſtinguiſhed from his neighbours, and of whom an uniformity of conduct in all reſpects is expected.

O we fools and blind! the phariſee, the ſtrict attendant at meeting, and ſome miniſters, have brought more ſcandal on the profeſſion than thoſe called libertines, and covetouſneſs and injuſtice have been too much neglected, whilſt leſſer matters have been attended to: it is now time to turn about, and exerciſe the holy teſtimony againſt both theſe claſſes.

Do I purſue nature with moderation enough, and grace with zeal enough? no: Lord, raiſe my love!

A precious illumination to this purpoſe: "Though the gift of prophecying is to be coveted, yet remember well that charity, as deſcribed by the apoſtle, far exceeds all other gifts."

Remember well thy low ſtation, even as but a late, very late awakened chriſtian, and do not inſult over but pity others.

At meeting very poor: O for more meekneſs, more temperance, and more of the fear of the Lord!

Stupidity and darkneſs are overſpreading us: who ſhall keep his habitation in the light!

O my ſoul! awake to a ſenſe of God's bounty in ſetting before thee evidences of the high order,

ſtation,

ſtation, and dignity of the human ſoul, in ſome indiſputable inſtances of perceptions made by it, unaccountable.

At a ſilent meeting, the fire was on the altar, drawing from the earth, and all that is ſpecious and goodly in it.

Seven o'clock. Roſe at the call of the Lord Jeſus, in order to improve this day (the firſt of the week) ſpiritually, well knowing, that a tranſlation doth impend.

Unrighteous ſlight from a patient: may I ſay honeſtly, bleſſed be the Lord! ſurely, it is more honourable and divine to ſerve them that do not pay than them that do.

At meeting---- Let thy love to the world be proportioned to thy ſhort ſtay in it, even become leſs and leſs.

An humble hope that God's calm preſence out of the tempeſt, is with me, in my humble practice of medicine, and in this writing.

The Lord ſaid, "Thou muſt not only love nature leſs, but do leſs in that reſpect, in order to acquire a heavenly habit."

A moſt laborious meeting, exerciſing to my ſpirits beyond ſtrength: however, it was and is my comfort, that I diſcharged my conſcience faithfully in the ſupport of the chriſtian teſtimony againſt immorality, though in oppoſition to two worthy brethren.

Lord, give patience to bear ill-grounded oppoſition to the truth: ſurely, thou art judge of all.

At meeting---- Reſt aſſured, O my ſoul! that there is no way of reconciliation with God but by double diligence.

The Lord is embittering to me the friendſhips, honours, profits, and even (natural) ſtudies of this world: ſo Lord, embitter! but the mind, ſo long

C warped

warped to temporals, will not ſuddenly take another turn.

Devoted a ſpace for meditation on native fierceneſs, and God enlightened thus: Do not pray only, but watch, and decline the occaſions; and remember God will not acquit the guilty.

Whilſt I enjoy plenty—— O the poverty of men and women at the village! Lord, preſerve from the abuſe of the corn, wine, and flax!

Immorality is now entering, and aſſuredly, Lord, thou knoweſt too much unrebuked: Lord, ſtrengthen to faithfulneſs in the lot aſſigned me!

A ſweet ſymphony this day between a brother and me, in that ſimple and moſt beautiful query, "Does the day's work go on with the day?"

Look at the friendſhips of men in the world and the church; look at the tedious purſuits after, and the imperfections of, ſcience; the darkneſs and weakneſs of thy own mind; the uncertainty of riches, the danger and hurt annexed to eating and drinking, and to company, and the ſuggeſtions of Lucifer in thy brighteſt moments: and ſee if thou canſt reſt thy ſoul here without aſpiring after a better ſtate!

In the night recommended, in prayer, ſome perſons to the Lord, that he would open their eyes and turn their hearts, ſince we cannot.

Left alone in the gallery: the fire was on the altar, and I found, bleſſed be the Lord! the preſent with-drawing of help from man to drive to a cloſer union with God.

The church hath ever had its enemies, now open, then ſecret: why then, O my ſoul! art thou diſquieted at the ſame?

Diſcharged my conſcience, in open teſtimony againſt immorality under a plain covering, bleſſed be the Lord!

What is the bent of thy mind now? Hadſt thou rather be great than good, viz. more in ſcience than

in

in love? I would gladly hope not: Lord, give the meek ſpirit and heavenly ſcience!

All that has been done for the honour of men will have no reward; but the acts of ſelf-denial, and every effort to promote truth in oppoſition to the wicked, I humbly hope, may be rewarded.

Accompliſhed the viſit to——— with a miniſter, to whom my heart was united: here weaning from the world and ſome ſenſe of a real progreſs, poſſeſſed my mind to my comfort.

A moſt profitable ſilent impreſſion at an otherwiſe barren meeting to this important purpoſe: Lord, go on to wean from the ardent purſuit of ſcience in preference to love, and be with me in the hour of temptation in this reſpect every day!

Two miniſters with a true goſpel ſound: I bleſs thee, Lord, for this high priviledge of a living miniſtry to an unworthy generation.

On this day roſe at five, on principle, and purſued the religious exerciſe proper to the day.

Opens the monthly retreat. The ſuppoſition is, that I am to die and give an account to God this day.

I hope the Lord hath lengthened out my day to ſome good purpoſe, and particularly this, that he may be King within, or that grace may be exalted above nature, that he may go on to ſlay the love of this, and cheriſh and advance the love of that, even as of heaven above earth!

At meeting——— Saw more deeply into the divine law, and my want of more humility, and contentment: even with contempt from others: and O for more of the divine preſence in all my temporals!

"Can the Ethiopian change his ſkin &c. and when the affections have been for a ſeries of years warped to nature, can they be turned to grace? ſurely,

ſurely, not without violence! Lord, help, leſt I periſh!

One petition grant, good Lord, that my love of the world and of nature may bear the proper proportion to the ſhort time I have to enjoy and purſue them, that is, that it may become leſs and leſs!

Diſcharged my conſcience at the ſchool, and was a means of ſtirring up another: thus in religious as in civil life, we are helps to one another.

Surely, the Lord is ſeen in the winds and weather very evidently: he meteth out the heavens with a ſpan, and his glory and goodneſs are here diſplayed; but how in the tumults of thy own boſom, and how in bounding thy worldly deſires! Surely, the ſame is felt, and the ſame goodneſs in grace, bleſſed be the Lord!

I fear I ſhall not be accepted: Lord, increaſe thy holy fear in my heart, and let me poſſeſs it always!

Every chriſtian is a Quaker; but the reverſe is far from being true.

See now formality and earthly-mindedneſs overſpreading the church as a thick cloud! Lord, let there be light in Goſhen!

At a ſilent meeting: ſweet encouragement to proceed; and as the ſummer ſun ripens for the harveſt; ſo let the celeſtial for glory; and as my labours in nature are advancing to maturity, ſo let thoſe in grace keep pace: for the judge is at the door.

Remember our peculiar profeſſion as called out of the apoſtacy.

Is the church coming out of the apoſtacy? Then behave accordingly.

The latent ſeed of life is burdened with the prevailing converſation about wars, even wholly engroſſed on that ſubject, and rejoicing at the ravages which the real chriſtian deplores.

Admoniſhed

Admoniſhed a brother with great frankneſs and tenderneſs.

God gave reſolution and integrity to attend both meetings of worſhip and diſcipline with induſtry, on the recovery of my bodily ſtrength.

Behold the caſe of our religious eſtabliſhment, ſurely, far ſhort of what is required of every chriſtian, and of the practice of the religious in former times, and ſtill far ſhort of what our real wants call for, viz. eight hours in a week only are devoted to public worſhip,—— No more than one-third of a natural day; but yet it muſt be obſerved, that even this one-third is far from being duly attended to; and, to ſay the truth, among the multitude of thoſe now profeſſing with us, not above one-twelfth of the twenty four hours, viz. two hours on firſt-day morning are devoted to publick worſhip, and what to private by theſe, is known only to the omniſcient: but can ſuch a people expect to proſper in ſpirituals: can they expect to make head againſt the puiſſant enemy of ſouls? And, O thou my ſoul! who haſt hitherto been too much immerſed in the cares of meer body, and participated of the corruption of the times, awake, awake, to ſuperior diligence and remember, that he who ſoweth ſparingly, ſhall reap ſparingly.

O the weight of the work of ſanctification! far away beyond words, which are but ſhadows, and, (without the life) Idols: am I not coming to the life of the words, to the power in which the kingdom is ſaid to ſtand?

I am a late-born chriſtian, and a very feeble one: Lord, extend mercy, and finiſh the works of cleanſing entirely! I want more of thy tender love, and tender fear, in the hours of temptation! remember not the ſins of my youth and age, in preferring nature to grace! Lord, I turn about, though late. O the riches of the divine bounty in thus giving

ſpace

ſpace to repent! Lord, animate my natural ſtudies with charity, and limit them with moderation!

Opened a holy vigil, and accordingly roſe in the night, with a revival of a ſenſe of the church's now coming out of the apoſtacy, and a ſerious deſire of being one of her ſons, particularly in an increaſe of heavenly mindedneſs; and I was comforted in a view of the goſpel day, and of the knowledge of Chriſt Jeſus as the ſon and ſent of God, and of a ſubjection to him as ſuch, as preferable to all other knowledge.

Formality has overſpread other profeſſors, but now attacks us, a ſet of profeſſed ſeparatiſts, who when without the power are deeper hypocrites than any.

At meeting: felt what is beyond words; yet the ſpeeches were ſweet and highly pertinent.

Performed a church viſit, wherein I was enabled to act as a goad, bleſſed be the Lord! and ſaw evidently the growing benefits of theſe admonitory viſits, in aſſociation.

There is a crown in ſtore, but it muſt be ſought for.

The credit of the ſociety is not at heart as it ought to be; a ſhameful languor in our overſeers.

My brother is going, and ſo is my old faithful ſervant, and myſelf alſo: alarming warnings: however I hope the ſteerage is right in general.

Two ſilent meetings, but both luminous to me, though the afternoon one greatly deſerted. It is good to be with the faithful few.

Grace triumphed over nature this morning, and I was renewedly impelled to importune my Lord, to ſweeten my ſourneſs, and lift up my ever grovelling ſoul.

Exerciſed an eve in preparation for the meeting to-morrow, in order to an early and cordial attendance.

In

In a view of our afternoon-meetings in the heavenly vision, our christian fellowship is violated, multitudes of our women, and not a few of our men, deserting the publick worship, not believing in Christ Jesus, as the invisible minister now, when the outward is in a great measure withdrawn.

Our almost universal silence is wrong, both as an effect and as a cause: viz. as an effect, of a want of right preparation of heart, from the abundance whereof the mouth would speak; and as a cause of more spiritual stupidity, in with-holding those incitements to devotion which speech gives.

Every day doth God sound the alarm of life's uncertainty, and of the instability of all human friendships: why then so fond of either? Lord, wean yet more and more! surely, the work is begun; Lord, perfect it!

The pilgrimage is near over, wherefore make little provision of temporals; but lay in a greater store of good works.

God sanctified my view of the retrogradation of others with this resolution, that I will, with his aid, go forward in as great a proportion as they are going backwards.

Late coming to meeting is a sensible injury to the real service of it in myself and others.

O how little publick spirit, even in our temporals! I am forced to tug the oar almost alone in the service of the medical society.

Humbled under a sense of God's prescience, of which we have no conception.

Purchased to myself reproach according to the wise man's maxim—— Prov. ix. 7. in reproving a scorner this second time: however I discharged my conscience in simplicity, and left the event to the Lord.

God

God shews to be sins what the world calls little matters! so, Lord, shew and deliver wholly from them.

Ezekiel was commanded to sigh over his brethren-captives: an instructive lesson.

O the miseries and impending deaths of men every day! Lord, give to attend to this voice with awe!

Lord have pity on this congregation, whose shepherds are smitten, even for thy own name's sake, and for the exaltation of spirituality amongst us.

Behold our situation as elders, even in the face of a generation raw, ignorant, and uncircumcised!

One of our week-day meetings is threatned with depopulation: paid a spiritual visit upon it. The people are not inward worshippers, nor do they heartily believe the doctrine of Christ being our teacher.

"Open thine eyes and behold our desolations," said Daniel the captive to his maker: where is thy analogous prayer?

A deep sleep hath prevailed: a spurious ministry in a place or places is threatned, and the officers appointed to oppose it languid, and in some degree divided: Lord, help for thy glory's sake, and give to abide in the time of trial.

A foreign minister seasonably exercised a man of faith: the text was, "The damsel is not dead, but sleepeth;" sweetly applied to our dull church state: Lord, awaken! He thinks there is some life among some of our youth: Amen!

Now temptations surround, viz. new calls to some fresh objects of natural studies; but I hope that "In vain is the snare laid in the sight of the bird."

Loosening from the world, is the tenour of the commission of the two late ambassadors: soul, awake, and retire more, and fly from threatning fame!

The

The oppoſite courſe laid out, is, firſt, in a more ſtrict temperance; ſecond, in a more heavenly mindedneſs, and particularly in a more early attendance of meetings.

Repent was the call of John the Baptiſt, and of Chriſt himſelf, and of the twelve he ſent out.

Amidſt conſiderable exerciſes and troubles, God has given me to ſee good days.

Days, weeks, months and years, have I neglected thee, ſweet Jeſus, thee of whom the prophets bear witneſs, and of the glory of thy goſpel day; ſo that the ſubjects which of right ſhould have been the darling entertainments of my youth, are now become thoſe of my declining day! goodneſs to be admired and adored.

Lord, thou haſt planted me as a willow by the ſides of the rivers, whilſt thouſands are in a deſart land: ſhall not fruit be brought forth in ſome proportion?

God hath exerciſed thy faith and patience, as he ever hath done with his children; he hath given many ſoft and loving diſpenſations: ſhall he not chaſtiſe? Amen, ſo Lord ſanctify all!

This truth was ſealed upon my mind, that there is no wiſdom, but in the truth as it is in Jeſus.

"Why ſayſt thou, O Jacob? my way is hid from the Lord."---- A firm confidence in God omniſcient, omnipotent, and good, is the point under all events.

Awake and call to mind the extent, dignity, and diſtinguiſhing characters of thy profeſſion: Lord, let me not be numbered among hypocrites.

Behold the character of a genuine Quaker: He worſhips God in ſpirit, and hath no confidence in the fleſh, in words and exteriors, but in the life, virtue, power and ſubſtance; nor in any types nor repreſentations, but is ſwallowed up in the antitype.

Lord,

Lord, thou haſt ſtripped me in temporals, and given me to ſee the inſtability of human friendſhips: thou haſt embittered my entertainments; thou haſt mingled reproach with fame; thou haſt alſo at times hid thy face from me in the aſſemblies; thou haſt viſited me with ſickneſs: I ſee afflictions muſt be my lott; and, adored be thy goodneſs, thou haſt ſweetned and ſanctified them to me, as a means of weaning me from this world, in a juſt and holy contempt thereof, and of ſaying unto thee with a ſaint of old, "Thou art my rock and my refuge."

I ſaw alſo into the faith of the old ſaints mentioned in the 11th of Hebrews, and that this and not human reaſon and prudence, muſt be my ſupport: for, in a human view of the preſent ſtate of the church, we are undone; but faith in Chriſt's promiſe to be with his diſciples to the end of the world, and that he hath engraven Sion on the palms of his hands, is a ſupport under partial deſertions and afflictions.

O God! I am not enough thy child, for thou art ſlow, but I am quick to anger.

Soul, ariſe in faith! in the future country all theſe myſteries will be unravelled, and thy faculties ſhall be enlarged far beyond their preſent narrow limits, and thou wilt be freed from thy preſent clogs of fleſh and blood hindering thy flight upwards: nor will there be any longer complaints of a moiſt atmoſphere, but a purer air, or æther, ſhalt thou inhabit.

O how ſhort am I of thoſe illuſtrious youths who (within the compaſs of my own obſervation) have devoted the flower of their day to the promotion of truth upon earth!

A week day meeting, which was (after an entire ſilence in the morning and the afternoon on firſt-day) alſo ſilent: and I teſtify, that to me each of theſe ſeaſons was precious, and illuminating, and the fire on the altar was kept in.

As

As to the late and preſent ſilence, what wonder is it that God ſhould withdraw the clouds from an unfruitful vineyard.

A fourth ſilent meeting, and an humbling one to me, under a ſenſe of a clog of fleſh and blood abridging the devotion of this day.

The firſt day of the week: roſe at ſix, thus following the Lord's leadings, even in redeeming the hours, the many precious hours, which I have loſt, irrevocably loſt, in ſleep in the mornings of this ſolemn day.

Lord, give to ſtand in thy counſel, fear, and love, in this time of deſolation!

A careful, laborious Martha, ſuch a one as I in ſome ſort, was this day ſuddenly ſnatched away from all her cares, by an apoplectick ſtroke.

Good Lord, unutterably good, who didſt not cut me off whilſt idolizing nature; and now, by a meer act of adorable bounty, art viſiting me by the call of thy loud ſounding trumpet, to prepare for another ſtate: Lord, deſtroy ſin, root and branch!

Is not truth upon earth as amiable as in the early times of our ſociety? Why then ſuch languor in promoting it?

Lord, give faith and love, even as great as theirs was whoſe lives I read and write.

Roſe with this ſweet impreſſion: He that fed Iſrael with manna in the wilderneſs, will, alſo be thy ſupport in the trials, being the everlaſting rock and refuge of his children.

Belated at meeting, not in the eſtimation of man, but in that of God, the inward ſtandard, by which I deſire to be tried.

O for more faith, and more fear, even the victorious faith, and the preſerving fear!

The old adage revived—"That the way to die living, is to live dying." So, Lord, ſlay every inordinate affection, and particularly that of natural ſcience!

I muſt

I muſt be a companion to the few, and to the poor.

A ſweet and moſt uſeful illumination, viz. how and why is it that there are ſo many obſcurities in the ſcripture, in providence, and in God's dealing with his people? And why was Chriſt, at his reſurrection, exhibited but to a few ſelect witneſſes? Why did he not appear in a refulgent, divine glory, to the conviction of all at once?

The anſwer was clear, the world was not worthy of it, and the obſcurities thrown over the objects of our faith are a moſt uſeful exerciſe and trial of our faith and patience.

The forty-ſecond of Iſaiah, a clear deſcription of Chriſt: I will ſing the new ſong there mentioned, even the ſong of thankſgiving to God, for the ineſtimable gift of his ſon to us Gentiles.

A precious ſilent meeting, wherein, amidſt the open deſertions of publick worſhip by others, God ſupported me, and I worſhipped him in amazement at his long forbearance towards me for a ſeries of years.

Thou art a willow planted by the river in divers reſpects: thy opportunities call for abundant fruitfulneſs.

Beheld the univerſal ſpread of the love of the world, and the almoſt extinction of the ſpirit of chriſtianity, and a dead formality amongſt ourſelves: Kings indeed, are our nurſing fathers, but how rare are ſpiritual fathers among ourſelves!

As to the communion of ſaints, we have little but at our publick meetings: this is a very great defect.

Our people are wearied with ſilence, they are not an inward people.

Bleſſed be God, who hath now brought me through many engagements, ſome temporal, ſome ſpiritual, and hath opened divers myſteries in nature and above all in grace.

In

In ſix years, fifty of my acquaintances are dead!

Our ſpiritual warfare is maintained with a degree of ſucceſs; and it is evident the Lord is helping us: but ſtill cauſe for deep humiliation appears.

This world in our view is not a deſirable ſtation, any further than in relation to a better.

One good end may, by the over-ruling power of providence, be anſwered in the infirmities that ſtill hang on me and my brother, even to give us compaſſion towards others.

A ſilent meeting was bleſſed to me; and God, who ſets bounds to the ſea, did alſo ſet bounds to my thoughts, to the excluſion of temporals.

This (the world) is not thy reſt, ſeemed to be the watch-word in the morning.

Hurry previous to the meeting hurts.

On a review of our preſent ſpiritual ſtate, as ignorant, and almoſt ſtript of a miniſtry—— there ſeemed to open a field for labour in the ſpiritual harveſt, though not in a publick, but private way, even in executing the precepts of the apoſtle, "Warn them that are unruly, comfort the feeble minded, ſupport the weak, be patient toward all men."

And is not a faſt and prayer neceſſary on this occaſion, as a preparative for this work?

Thou, Lord, haſt ſupported us in a faithful teſtimony: to thee only be the glory: ſo ſupport and increaſe our faith and love, and grant us to be in the fellowſhip of the two witneſſes who prophecy in ſack-cloth.

Let us rejoice in the God of our ſalvation, who hath made us captains in his hoſt upon earth: Lord, give ſupport in this awful ſtation!

Roſe in the morning with a ſong, in bleſſing God for bringing his people out of the grand apoſtacy of popiſh darkneſs.

On

On a late Bodily Diſorder,

How gentle as uſual, is the Lord's chaſtiſement! but, O my backwardneſs in reſignation to the divine will! O Lord! how long ſhall this deeply rooted corruption remain? ſurely this ſcene of exerciſe, and frequently unſucceſsful conflict is not very deſirable? Why ſo fond of life? Lord, moderate my love of it! ſurely there is a better ſtate! O for the fulfilling the conditions for obtaining it! Lord, ſpare not hammer, ſword, nor fire.

O Lord, by thy ſtandard, and not by that of man, let me be guided, and ſtand reproved, as I deſerve! let thy mercy be ſtill extended to my reſtoration!

O how long ſhall the ſudden ſallies of anger, the true offspring of pride, ſtick to us!

As to the communion of ſaints upon earth, that of private conference is, undoubtedly, cloſer and more profitable than what is held in a mixed concourſe of publick preaching and praying.

O what ſearchings of heart are there! thus my brother complains of unbelief, and I have cauſe alſo to ſay, Lord, help my unbelief, and raiſe my languid love!

Innumerable and unſearchable are the mazes of nature, and thoſe of grace and of providence are a great myſtery: our day is meer twilight: Lord, ſanctify to thy glory this little light, and let it ſuffice to bring us to thoſe luminous regions where is no darkneſs nor night.

Doubted of a little rottenneſs of heart, in robbing God of a little of the time of devotion due to him, on ſome temporal converſe: O thou ſearcher of hearts, try me and know my thoughts!

Man alone, of the animal creation, is capable of knowing, loving, and adoring his maker as ſuch. View then the dignity of thy rank and tremble.

Left

Left my temporals and attended meeting, and was bleſſed with a ſweet petition, that God would give a reliſh of true chriſtian fellowſhip with the poor, with the weak, and with children.

God's reaſoning with Job,—— "Where was thou when I laid the foundations of the earth &c.—— applicable to my preſent ſtate and inquiries, and ample ſubject for humiliation and adoration: ye we are poor purblind mortals; yet we ſee a little, and (Job xxxv. 11.) "God teacheth us more than the beaſts of the earth, and maketh us wiſer than the fowls of heaven." adored be his goodneſs!

Surely, there was a ſecret powerful arm that ſupported me under the contradictions and rough uſage of a few; on occaſion of my oppoſing a ſpurious miniſtry.

Many about me are drowned in worldly cares and pleaſures, and I alſo am in danger of participating of the epidemick contagion: Lord, preſerve!

O how hard for the rich, and how hard for the learned to enter the kingdom!

I have born much from a falſe brother, and faithleſs yoke-fellow. I bleſs thee, Lord, who haſt given me a degree of patience, and led to fewneſs of words.

To walk in truth is the grand ſcope, viz. truth in ſleeping, truth in eating, truth in drinking truth in ſtudies natural to be ſubjected, truth in ſpirituals to be lifted up and purſued with ſuperior ardor. So help, Lord!

At a ſilent meeting, a ſweet attraction of the father's love, to ſuperior heights of purity, and the improvement of every chriſtian grace, and ſeveral ſcripture-texts preſented, all for my own uſe, and not for the people. So give me, Lord Jeſus, to learn at thy footſtool, and to walk in, not to talk of, thy ways, at leaſt, until a real further growth be witneſſed, which is the ſole point now in view, in a language beyond words, what is the ſhadow to the ſubſtance, to the life, power and virtue?

Talk

Talk after meeting hurtful, retirement advantageous.

In the country, ſweet content, tranquility and thankfulneſs, in a quiet retreat from the purſuits of ambition.

At a ſilent meeting, a ſweet attraction to more contempt of the world, and I ſaid, ſo as I depart more heavenly-minded, and my little ſtock of faith and love is increaſed, no matter whether we have words or no words, the kingdom of God being not in word but in power.

A ſtrong temptation to the honour that cometh of men, through improvements in natural ſcience: but truth ſpiritual prevailed and triumphed in a determination to look to Zion, and the depredations there; and to be ſtill more heavenly minded, and to get an increaſe of faith in Chriſt, ſuch a faith as ſhall influence thoughts, words and actions, a faith of another and better country, and a far greater contempt of this than I have ever yet attained unto.

A little nearer acceſs in prayer: but, withal, the prophecy of Ezekiel againſt the ſhepherds of Iſrael touched me viz.—— "The diſeaſed have ye not ſtrengthened, neither have ye healed that which was ſick, neither have ye bound up that which was broken, neither have ye brought again that which was driven away, neither have ye ſought that which was loſt."

Remember and practiſe accordingly, that the worſhip of God conſiſts not in words, but in an inward bowing, ſubmiſſion and conformity of will to his holy will on every occaſion: and thus now thou doſt preach, and ſhall preach, even by the example of ſilence in meetings, thus recommending works, power, life, and ſubſtance, ever to be magnified above words, which are but ſhadows.

O Lord, for thine own glory's ſake, ſupport us few who are deſirous to ſupport a proper overſight of the flock! O my

O my humble ſituation! yet, I hope, favoured of heaven, although deſpiſed on earth, even in my walks among the poor and middle ſort.

Biſhop Ken, and ſome other writers of that church, and our friends all point to Chriſt, and ſurely are all brethren, all chriſtians differently modified: we the leaſt ceremonious of all; we cry down words, but exalt life and works.

At meeting, ſome tender exhortations to others; but God's voice to me was far more uſeful, in an unfolding and applying of that ſaying of the Lord Jeſus, that father, mother, wife and children, brethren and ſiſters, yea and thy own life alſo, is to be hated when thou comeſt unto Chriſt, and that otherwiſe thou canſt not be his diſciple: thus, in a clear viſion, all the goodly things of this world, even the objects of lawful, but moderated love, are to be hated in compariſon of Chriſt: thou art to look with an eye of faith into the glories of the inviſible world, and deſpiſe the friendſhips of this, and even uſeful ſcience itſelf, in compariſon of the love of God in Chriſt unto thee. Amen!

Afternoon meeting ſilent; ſome of the people begin to murmur at ſilent meetings: Lord, ſupport!

A third or fourth exercife of patience this day, with a happy fortitude, bleſſed be the Lord!

Bleſs the Lord, O my ſoul! for his late ſignal deliverance of the Britiſh Iſles from impending deſolation: and, Lord, favour every honeſt endeavour among all ranks of chriſtians for the promotion of true chriſtianity in the life, ſpirit and eſſentials thereof!

On the firſt day of the week, a temptation to natural ſtudy, but rejected as unſeaſonable, and the reckoning day haſtening—— God ſtill draws from this world, and ſays, "this is not thy reſt." Every thing proclaims it a ſtate of diſquiet, imperfection, weakneſs, and conflicts.

A review of my vow at the opening of my buſineſs in Dublin, and of my ſhortneſs in keeping it during many years infirmities, and at length a danger of being buried in nature, until awakened by wonderful turns of providence, and the ſweet drawing of the father's love, even antecedent to my ſickneſs; but more eſpecially ſince that awakening ſtroke: however, (adored be the Lord's mercy) a little ſpark was preſerved, and never quite extinguiſhed all along: but now, now is the call louder and louder: ſo, good Lord, looſen and wean from this world, and every thing that is goodly and ſpecious in it!

How have I hallowed the name of the Lord, in a diligent, premeditated, early attendance on meetings for worſhip, even in theſe times of deſolation? God hath awakened thee: look to him for an increaſe of zeal and love and brighter ſhining in this time of ſpiritual eclipſe.

Some ſlight harbingers of an approaching diſſolution appear: O may the inward man grow ſtronger and ſtronger! may a holy contempt of the world, as a ſtage of imperfection, baniſhment, trials, and temptations, yet increaſe! thou haſt tried the pleaſures and the anxieties of ſcience, and now haſt found that neither of theſe do ſatiate, or make happy.

Two infirmities hang on me. Firſt, too great a propenſity to natural ſtudies, Second, haſtineſs on provocation, double the guard at the weak places.

Opened the publick viſit, and found an open door.

Proceeded on the viſit, and my brother ſhone in ſweet and moſt weighty counſel to two newly married: he is poor in the world, but rich in faith and love, and has the heavenly treaſure in the bag that waxeth not old.

A memorable meeting though ſilent. I was greatly comforted in my approach to the Lord, even

on

on this bleſſed experience: "The trial of your faith is more precious than that of gold which periſheth." Verified in my being ſupported under the religious publick viſit, when moſt of our fellow-profeſſors have forſaken us.—— The importance of the viſit appears more and more.

Left my temporals, and went to the meeting of Elders, ſpoke ſtummeringly there, and declared myſelf liſted in ſuffering for the holy cauſe.

Monthly retreat, being almoſt my ſixty third year. Bleſſed be the Lord! who has given to ſee good days and evil days; for the health of body and mind, and above all, for the tender ſollicitations of his love to my ſpirit!

An interview with a ſaint concerned in giving inſtructions to children, whom he finds ſuſceptible very early, even at ſeven or eight years of age.

Proceeded on the viſit ſweetly: I a child among them: a golden ſentence of one—— "The infatuation that prevails in preferring temporals to eternals is ſurpriſing," and, undoubtedly each are fools, blind, captives, priſoners and ſick: and muſt not ſuch be viſited? O Lord, raiſe up, and give a ſhare in the diſtribution of this moſt important charity!

As thou haſt witneſſed a ſenſible growth, in ſpiritual experience, in thy exerciſe, ſo deſpair not, but proceed in humility and fear, and God will increaſe thy ſtore, thy ſpiritual fund of chriſtian graces.

Diſquieting injections as to the late injuries done me, notwithſtanding my preceding declaration of receiving them as ornaments for truth's ſake.

Proceeded in the religious viſit, and diſcharged ourſelves faithfully, and were a help and ſtrength to one another, bleſſed be the Lord!

We had an open time with a poor man in his family, whom we invited to come and partake of our goſpel privilege: and the teſtimony to heavenly mindedneſs and chriſtian love was held up to the

glory of God; adored be his goodness for thus honouring us!

Such is the blessing of religious fellowship, such the communion of saints upon earth.

Many circumstances invite to this religious visit: First, the call of the church, and the example of other churches. Second, a general acquaintance, and an open door. Third, the forlorn state of our brethren, a state that calls for this service far more loudly than when an outward ministry subsisted in more vigour. Fourth, the ignorance and stupidity of the youth. Awake then soul: and Lord, give thy holy Fire!

"Enoch walked with God." An illumination and improvement of this text in the night, thus: Every good man walks with God, sees the invisible with an eye of faith, considers him as omnipresent and his judge, glorifies him as God, fears and trembles before him, as Joseph in Egypt, who thus walked with God. Now, bad men live without God, forget him; and do not acknowledge him in their ways.

Mark well the parable of the seed and highways ground, as, applicable to sudden transitions from devotion to converse on worldly matters; a too, too frequent practice: soul, beware of the contagion!

We have neither wisdom nor strength in the disposition of our church-services: some are loaded beyond ability, whilst others are quite idle—— and the multitude have neglected the call.

O Lord! thou art more than a thousand witnesses: so let thy holy dread possess my lips, in respect to what goes in through them, and what comes out from them: this I would call—— eating, drinking, and speaking in the Lord's presence; surely the temple ought to be kept undefiled.

O, to be preserved in a conduct consistent with the renunciation of superfluities of every kind, and in a life of hope in heaven, the better country, and

to be more and more weaned from this, is the top of my ambition!

At a ſilent meeting—— a clear viſion of the deceitful magnifying glaſs in which all worldly temporal ſchemes are viewed.

God ſought us (Heathens) before we ſought him: Chriſt's coming into the world is an undeniable proof of this; and agreeable unto this is what the Son ſays of the Father, John iv. *The Father ſeeketh ſuch to worſhip him as worſhip him in ſpirit and in truth*, and the prophecy of Iſaiah, *I was found of them that ſought me not.*

Jerom of Prague's prophecy: "A new people ſhall be raiſed up, who ſhall renounce the glory of the world, and ſeek after the cultivation of the inward man, and ſhall have clerks and miniſters among themſelves, whilſt thoſe of human appointment ſhall gradually conſume away like a moth."

O the long-ſuffering and love of God, in ſtriving by his ſpirit in the miniſterial labours beſtowed on a revolting generation!

Diſmal proſpects of the ravages of war: however, God ſeeth all this, and we are to adore what we do not comprehend; as, indeed, we ſee but a little way, and do not comprehend the things immediately before us.

The ſecond meeting ſilent, wherein had ſome comfort in hope, but, withal, a whiſper of an humbling nature, that I, even I, have grown too much in the branch, even in my ſpiritual writings, for a ſeries of years, but too little in the root; wherefore the call and draught now is, to ſhoot downwards.

By mean things, and things deſpiſed, is God now ſupporting an eſſential ſervice (even the viſiting of families) among an unworthy people—— the ſeed in priſon is viſited, and ſome of the ignorant traditional profeſſors are inſtructed and rouſed.

In

In our ſpiritual viſits, our ſitting in ſilence is a leſſon of inſtruction in families that they may do ſo likewiſe.

Proceeded on the family viſit, with an old woman well inſtructed in the eſſentials and vitals of chriſtianity, and directed by divine wiſdom to ſpeak pertinently: bleſſed be God! who thus manifeſts ſtrength in weakneſs, and exalts thoſe of low degree, whilſt the wiſe and prudent of this world are rejected.

Satan ſaid, "What buſineſs haſt thou with others?" but was anſwered thus, "It is no more than mete that an old traveller, at the end of his journey, ſhould relate to the young ones the dangerous ſpots he has paſſed through."

In the courſe of the viſit, I was outſhone by my aſſociate, even in private, pertinent, uſeful, and important exhortations to individuals; a work of more and cloſer labour than publick preaching. Good Lord bleſs it!

A ſhort liſt of favours from heaven, viz. in an education among a ſelect people; in God's forbearance during my neglect of him among aliens; in now ſignally favouring my old age with a renewed viſitation; in chaſtiſing me with unmeritted reproaches and trials of faith and patience, more precious than gold; in placing me among my betters, living incentives to ſuperior faith, love, and purity.

I, alſo, am a leader or ſpiritual captain: I tremble at the thought, but not enough.

O thou long-ſuffering Lord, draw on to ſuperior heights of purity and uniformity of conduct: let thy goodneſs lead to repentance in a more effectual manner!

The bridegroom cometh; more oil in the lamp is wanted: not pierced enough by the dread of God, nor ſenſible enough to God's daily alarms in deaths: rouſed, indeed, a little, and but a little.

O ſweet

O ſweet ſolitude and humility! opening ſcenes of duty to my neighbours, brethren, and countrymen, which would be entirely overlooked in the croud. Thus will I glory in attending to little things, not envying kings or princes, temporal or ſpiritual, ſeeing the great riſk which real ſolid virtue runs in thoſe ſtations.

I have little of the ſeraphick flame; but am under the operation of the refiner's fire: perhaps ſuch ſober ſinners as I have been, ſeldom arrive to that high pitch of love that thoſe who think themſelves to have been greater ſinners.

It is good to dwell much on the dark ſide, and not on the light ſide of this world, which laſt is ever deceiving its children: Chriſt, our Lord and pattern, choſe the dark ſide, even poverty and tribulation, of which if we partake not, we are baſtards: but ſuppoſe we were rich, and had every natural want ſupplied, yet many things attend to render this a ſtate not to be deſired with that fervour with which the children of this world deſire it; as, firſt, it is a ſtate of darkneſs and imperfection, even with reſpect to knowledge of things divine as well as natural; a ſtate of faith not of viſion. Second, it is with the beſt of men a ſtate of combat with the fiend of hell, the ſpirit of the world, and their own hearts luſt; and we do not always conquer, but are ſometimes wounded in the fight. Third, the wickedneſs of the world, and the carnality of our fellow-profeſſors. Fourth, the death of our acquaintances, even of our fellow-communicants in a religious way, removed almoſt daily from our ſight!

Who then would ſet his heart upon this world? But, bleſſed be the Lord Jeſus! who is come and has opened and prepared for us better manſions: ſurely, this hope is the baliam of life to the chriſtian, amidſt all the imperfections and miſeries of this mortal ſtate.

Unſeaſonable

Unſeaſonable engagements immediately ſucceeding the publick worſhip, ever hurtful, and hinder the due application of the truths received.

Rose at the call of my Lord, after awaking with a ſong of praiſe, and a prayer, and reviewed with ſweet delight, God's favour and ſignal bleſſing to me and my ſpiritual ſocio, even in comforting our ſouls together, and giving us ſome lucid, joyous intervals in this our ſolitary pilgrimage.

New ſcenes of duty incumbent on an elder, in pointing out ſome inexpediencies and hurtful things, ſuch as, late coming to meeting; entering into diſcourſe preſently after meetings, mourning habits, and other articles of dreſs, and drinking healths, likewiſe in adviſing to moderation and circumſpection in trading.

The love of the ſpiritual brethren far tranſcends the love of the world, which is ſelfiſh: bleſſed be the Lord, who hath given me ſome reliſh of the communion of ſaints here! but, O how little have we of this! ſurely there muſt be a better ſtate.

Look back to thy printed exhortations of renouncing ſuperfluous profits, ſuperfluous ſtudies, and ſuperfluous acquiſitions of knowledge, any further than ſubſervient to thy neighbours good, and look forward to the opening grave, from which thou canſt not be far.

Two vigilant elders in the province deceaſed, made a great gap in our preſbytery.

O ye religious orders, of whatever denomination, who have put on Chriſt's livery, beware, beware of hypocriſy! much ſcandal hath been given by many of you, and the name of Chriſt blaſphemed on your account, when men who have ſeen you, whilſt profeſſing Chriſt, to be real devotees of Mammon or Belial! thus you give the lie to your profeſſion, and ſtrengthen infidels, and are ſtumbling blocks in the way of chriſtianity. What is the ſhadow to the

ſubſtance?

ſubſtance? let us all humble ourſelves; for, ſurely, it is of God's mercy that we are not conſumed.

This day truth triumphed, and Jeruſalem was preferred to my chief joy, and the glory of the world poſtponed to an honeſt zeal for chriſtian diſcipline, in the name of the Lord.

Behold the ſnare laid in natural ſcience, to the purſuit of which there is no end! Lord lift up to faith and love!

Our publick church-ſervices, and neceſſary ones, threaten to be dropp'd: the pillars are weak; Lord, look down and help for thy own glory's ſake!

God is greatly favouring in permitting to accompliſh the natural work, by averting an impending death, and now giving ſtrength to correct and improve it: but yet a higher favour is granted, even a louder call to the contemplation of the myſteries of grace and redemption, and to the experience of a growth in grace, and of final ſalvation: to this now, O my Soul! be thy chief, thy reigning attention! but beware of the thief, the charms of natural ſcience: view the imperfections thereof, and at one glance view, with the glorious proſpect-glaſs of faith, that country where we ſhall no longer ſee through a glaſs darkly, where intuition the ken of angels, ſhall take place of the tedious and wearifome place of ratiocination!

A ſilent meeting, but luminous to me; yet hurt by ſubſequent converſation, as uſual, drawing off the mind from its proper exerciſe.

Behold the wretched ſtate of the brotherhood; ſome have no ſpirit for the work, others are in the briars: O that by how much the more others are entangled, ſo much the more I may be diſentangled!

O the goodneſs of God in viſiting by his miniſters an unworthy people! it is beyond our comprehenſion, as, indeed, the ways of heaven are, in nature, providence,

providence, and grace! may that saying, "I was found of them that sought me not," be verified!

To know much is not our lott; but to adore, fear and obey, is our portion, and business. Amen.

Remember the account of the conduct of Nehemiah, on occasion of the desolations in outward Israel! he sat down and wept, and mourned certain days, and fasted, and prayed before the God of heaven; and, surely, something of this nature is now seasonable and necessary, previous to the conference of the elders.

In publick—— Why doth the Lord withhold the former and latter rain? There is a cause:— Is it not for lukewarmness and formality in worship, ever hateful to God?

The apostacy is founded in unbelief, and in the inordinate love of the world.

We do not want numbers, but strength, we have loved the world, and followed its cares and pleasures too much, have built our own houses and neglected that of God.

Riches, greatness, gratification of appetite in drinking, eating, sleeping, hath wounded and weakened us greatly.

A minister, in his return from his visit, pronounceth the prevalence of corruption among us to be very great, and that we are become almost as the salt which hath lost its savour, and his sense is that as we have rejected the calls of God, we shall be visited in another manner, even with a rod.

Sensible of an approaching dissolution, and of this autumn of my life: I am now (blessed be the Lord!) chiefly employed in collecting and putting up my fruit into the publick store-house.

Not yet sweetned enough in the government of my family.

God is still striving instrumentally with carnal professors,—— O, what an honour is this done to me, to be joined as a help-meet to those instruments, whom,

whom, with my ſoul, God ſtrengthen! for we wreſtle with a powerful adverſary, the God of this world.

What, for the moſt part, are our prayers and exhortations but holy ſtruggles of light with darkneſs, and of life with death? ſurely, then this is not our reſt.

All theſe things, and we alſo, with all that is goodly and ſpecious among men, paſs away as a ſhadow!

There is a beautiful laconiſm in the holy ſcriptures: but many preachers and authors ſeem to think to be heard for their much ſpeaking and writing: but they bury their jewels in a deal of chaff.

To love and adore is our proper province, not to know much; for as to knowledge, we are mere purblinds both in naturals and ſpirituals.

I ſaw ſome of my neighbours gradually ſliding away from the holy cauſe, having not Sion, but their own houſes chiefly in view.

Renounced a patient for the ſake of the church-journey in view.

Viſited the ſick on his death-bed in company, in a ſpiritual way, where, I doubt, my companion did not adminiſter wholeſome counſel, but rather flattered one who had been an idolater: God ſtrengthened me to add a little ſuppliment on that behalf: he alſo ſtrengthened me to give the preference of ſpirituals to temporals in a joint expedition with a miniſter and elder.

What is the difference between the preſent and the former generation of Quakers? Anſwer: They received truth in the love of it, and of choice: many of theſe have not received it of choice, but becauſe their anceſtors received it: what wonder then that more heavenly fruits do not appear.

O the zeal of the apoſtles in the infancy of the goſpel day! and alſo, the zeal of ſome of thy acquaintance, in croſſing the ſeas to promote truth on earth.

earth. I move in a low ſphere, indeed, yet would gladly borrow a little of their fire to light my dim taper.

Two ſpiritual viſits, in order to proceed to an abſolutely neceſſary excommunication, in oppoſition to ſelf intereſt, bleſſed be the Lord!

A ſweet and clear acceſs to my Lord in this important and deep impreſſion: "Put thy fear in my heart, good Lord, even as an effect of thy love abounding, a fear, not of great ſins only, but of little ones, even the leaſt. O thou great majeſty of heaven, ſearcher of hearts, and judge of quick and dead!"

To be preſerved from the evils that are in the world, while we are in the world, how hard is it?

"Once were ye darkneſs, but now are ye light in the Lord," through the divine bleſſing, happily experienced thus: I once thought my heaven was here, but of late years I find it is not here, but ſee this world, and every thing ſpecious in it, in a far different light, and with an eye of contempt, bleſſed be the Lord!

A notable æra. God hath juſt now brought thee through one laborious natural work: now beware of any freſh engagement during this ſhort ſpace between thee and death.

A proſpect of the death of my beſt human friend in the world, my brother: may this event, however be ſo far bleſſed as to wean me yet more effectually from an attachment to this life, and every thing that is goodly and ſpecious in it!

At the meeting of miniſters and elders, truth and love triumphed: it was a more ſearching, luminous, and melting time than uſual: this is the communion of ſaints begun, a pledge of our future happineſs, bleſſed be the Lord! Lord, make mete, ſpare neither hammer, ſword nor fire!

A bleſſed

A bleſſed and ſeaſonable recommendation, "It is not an unavailing bemoaning of the deſolations of our Iſrael, but a fervency of ſpirit to repair," and this recommendation was this day animated by living examples, bleſſed be the Lord!

Surely, as Chriſt died for the ungodly, ſo now in and by his members, the faithful miniſters, is he ſtriving with, and wooing, the unregenerate, and the ſinners in Sion.

A ſweet whiſper, and bright illumination at meeting, thus: "Surely thou who art on the grave's brink, wanteſt not fame: for it can be of little uſe to ſo ſhort lived a creature."

Held our monthly conference: my Brother has got the ſtart of me with reſpect to freedom from anxiety about the concerns of this life: help Lord, and I will aſſuredly follow him!

Behold the vaſtly more extenſive uſe and importance of divinity than of phyſick: all men are ſoul-ſick; but very few, compared to the bulk, are bodily ſick.

Judas betrayed his maſter for thirty pieces of ſilver: and even thou, in every caſe wherein thou betrayeſt or balkeſt the holy teſtimony for any worldly advantage, art a kinſman in ſpirit to Judas.

We have religion without ceremony: but if we loſe the power, we are of all formaliſts the moſt contemptible.

Queſtion. Where is the good or real benefit of thy ſilence in meeting?

Anſw. I am a living rebuke to that ſpirit which faith, where there are no words, there is no worſhip; which I am ſtrongly jealous, is the language of not a few, but they believe a lie: Lord, open their eyes!

This day both meetings were ſilent, yet to me luminous, bleſſed be the Lord!

The call ſeems to be now, as formerly, not to the great, and rich, and wiſe, and honoured among

men,

men, but rather to the poor and ignorant, ſuch as children, and I add thoſe in affliction.

A renewal of the concern, to get the world under, and heaven above.

Now doth God call at the eleventh hour or later, loudly, to this purpoſe: beware, beware, thou negligent ſervant, of ſurfeiting, drunkenneſs, and the ſpirit of it, and the cares of this life, how ſpecious ſoever! more abſtinence, leſs ſtudy of nature, more of grace, and adorning the inward man, leſt thou be caſt out of God's preſence for ever! I fear, but not enough, becauſe I do not love God enough.

At a ſilent meeting:——awaken, for the bridegroom cometh: I ſee indeed, many careleſs; but even this bad example ſhall, I hope, be a means of ſtirring me up, as ſhewing the neceſſity of the reverſe diſpoſition.

Performed a viſit to a poor ſaint, who in a private ſtation hath been inſtrumental to turn many to righteouſneſs in a ſignal manner.

My dear Brother S. departed this life the 1ſt of this month: now remain only two out of ſix, my turn is probably the next, and ſpeedy: Lord, ſanctify this event, and let it pierce my heart more deeply!

After meeting much talk hurts and hinders the ſeed ſown, whether by Chriſt himſelf, or by means of his miniſters, from taking root, or proſpering to that degree, as if cheriſhed by ſacred ſilence, it would do.

Soul awake, and view the ſtate of the church, and ſee if there be cauſe of joy; or whether it be moſt ſeaſonable now to feaſt or to faſt: for, indeed, the ſtars are drawn from the heavens: and our heavens are as braſs, and our earth as iron.

Come out of Babylon, "*ſaid the Lord*;" and ſurely now he alſo ſaith, "Come out of the world and its ſpirit;" for a like participation of the plagues

is annexed to a participation of the pleaſures of both!

A crowd of buſineſs impends; take care that Jeſus be not loſt in it.

Go on, and view the dark ſide of the world; for it is neceſſary to do this often, in order to be preſerved from the allurements of it.

It is now high time to be ripened for glory, as the corn for the granary, by the ſun of God's love, and by the wind of his chaſtiſements.

Struggled hard, and got ſeaſonably to meeting: ſaw the evil effects of late coming: it encourages and multiplies the ſame evil of example, and is a robbery of God.

To dwell with God is the point: but how can this be without an entire union of my will to his!

Lord, make me more ſpiritual in my converſe, and cauſe my light to ſhine therein more than ever it has done!

I am indeed an object of God's ſingular long forbearance extended to theſe my declining days, having not been cut off in the time of idolatry and ignorance, when meer body was the prevailing ſubject of my care, whilſt the ſoul lay uncultivated, and the ſuperior excellency of the knowledge of Chriſt Jeſus lay buried under natural ſtudies. Awake then O my ſoul! and fly upwards on the wings of faith and love.

I do not love the Lord enough, becauſe I do not fear him enough, particularly in eating and drinking: Lord, increaſe my love, and wean me from the world more, and particularly from the ſpecious glitterings of natural ſcience!

The hope of heaven is the ſupport, refuge and comfort of old age: cloath us, Lord, with the proper robes, and then come when thou pleaſeſt.

A bleſſed ſilent meeting, with ſweet drawings of the Father's love, and fervent deſire that he will lift

up

up his ſpirit as a ſtandard againſt the inundation of worldly riches and glory, from which I fly; aſſiſt and direct my flight, good Lord!

Behold the ſnares laid in fame and friendſhip! Lord, preſerve, or I ſhall be catched, for I am very weak.

Soul, cheer up; thou art the object of envy and malice, both in the natural and ſpiritual world: theſe are appendages of real merit; God ſanctify, and give patience and long forbearance!

What lack I yet?

Anſw. More meekneſs, and more heavenly mindedneſs, to be the diſtinguiſhing beauties of my old age.

In heavineſs yeſterday on account of the puiſſance of my ſpiritual enemies, among which the fleſh appears the moſt dangerous, being inſeparable.

Falling into converſation immediately after meeting hurts: O the many avenues open to hurt the precious ſeed that may have been ſown! ſoul, awake: it is a dangerous time.

The afternoon meeting ſilent, but very ſweet in the attraction of the Father's love to objects above fleſh and blood, even the decking the inward man, and adorning it as a bride for the bridegroom, that there may be nothing in my will which may in any degree claſh with his; and let the haſtening midnight cry ſtir up to get more oil in the lamp.

Be not caſt down, O my ſoul; remember who ſteers the ſhip: thou haſt ſeen his wiſdom, goodneſs and power in nature, and in grace alſo: he ſeeth the worſt ſtate, as well as the beſt, and undoubtedly all things ſhall terminate to his glory: put thy truſt in him, who knoweth them that are, and that are not his. The riſe and fall of ſocieties, though myſteries to us, are not ſo to him. Keep faithful as much as poſſible to thy preſent high profeſſion, even

as one of the ſelect, and diſtinguiſhed as ſuch by a habit and ſpeech peculiar, hung out to the world.

Soul, awake: the world ſmiles on thee, but there is witchcraft in this look: O Lord, help, or I ſhall be beguiled!

A clear viſion of my converſion from nature to grace, eſpecially ſince my viſitation A. D. 1754, and ſang to the Lord on that account: but this was added; ſanctification is a gradual work, and not yet completed.

Hear the voice of God in the two late deaths in one houſe, ſaying "ye have no continuing city here."

Sick of the world in the church and ſtate. Surely there muſt be a better: Lord, give a meetneſs for that better aſſociation! mean time faith muſt be tried, and patience exerciſed.

Behold medicine exerciſed even with the utmoſt ſucceſs: it is only protracting the doom of the patient for a little while: for the irreverſible decree is, "Thou ſhalt die."

Looked back on occaſion of ſhifting my lodging, wherein I ſpent twenty-ſix years, which are but as yeſterday; and ſuch will be the remainder allotted thee, even the bounds of thy habitation, known to God only, whom therefore I worſhip, and ſay: "O give to redeem the time, of which ſo much has been devoted to nature, ſo little to grace!"

Behold, the world is under thy feet; thou haſt no need of anxiety after its treaſures. Lord, keep me modeſt and humble!

This day was the nail hit upon the head in a ſolid, ſelf-denying miniſtry, in driving the hearers home to God's gift in themſelves, the peculiar glory of the faithful miniſtry among us.

This was ſeconded by his fellow-labourer, in a pertinent application of that text, "Ceaſe from man whoſe breath is in his noſtrils;" and I was thankful that my God had brought me to this happy

ſtate at our meetings, even of depending on God alone.

The glory is not yet departed from our Iſrael, nor the flaming fire from the lips of our miniſters, nor the ſpirit of love and wiſdom from our elders, in regard to chriſtian diſcipline.

A ſweet glimmering proſpect, that God is opening to me a new path, in occaſional viſits to penitents and others——O, let me be joined with the few yet alive in theſe degenerate days.

A bleſſed ſilent meeting, in a viſion of the glory of this goſpel day, in a cloſe view of impending eternity, and the ſweet hope of a happy one, with a voluntary renunciation of the world, and all anxiety about medical buſineſs; for, indeed, what am I but one of the few odd ones eſcaped from the grave longer than uſual?

Soul, awake! thou haſt viſited periodically, now viſit occaſionally: thou haſt invited the rich, now invite the poor; for the rich have too generally refuſed: Lord, help, and raiſe up thoſe of low degree, and faithful labourers, even for thy own glory's ſake!

In our preſent exerciſe the apoſtolick precepts of bearing one another's burthens, ſupporting the weak, and warning the unruly, are executed pretty honeſtly, though weakly.

The ordaining of elders among us is lately and very rightly introduced; a moſt uſeful and neceſſary ſupplement to the withdrawing of an outward miniſtry, and help to the preſent miniſtry: but it is worth remembering what accompanied this work formerly, which I think is as neceſſary now; viz. prayer with faſting, the laſt a practice we are of late years too little acquainted with.

Sleepy at meeting, with a cloudy atmoſphere; but in the ſequel witneſſed that which is above words, the heavenly power drawing towards the renovation

of

of the divine image upon my ſoul, bleſſed be God!

Little publick ſpirit: I can hardly get yoke-fellows in nature, in medicine, nor in grace. Lord, bring to that better company, that of angels, and the ſpirits of juſt men made perfect!——

Soul remember thy ſtation, and tremble; a judge had need be very circumſpect: I ſay again, tremble; for here is an uncircumciſed generation: it is not poſſible for meer man to ſtand againſt and over them.

Look back to the beloved diſciple, who argues from the love of God, in ſending his ſon to be a propitiation for our ſins, that we ought to love one another: now we ſee that God ſtill exerciſeth long forbearance to ſinners: and ſhall not we, who are but pardoned ſinners, exerciſe the ſame temper towards them? If we are his children, we ſhall.

O the bleſſing of the holy ſcriptures; and, O for a ſuitable improvement: of a favour not enjoyed by thouſands!

The advice to the church of Sardis was, to be watchful, or awake; we alſo here are ſpiritually aſleep: Lord, look on us, and preſerve my ſoul from the epidemical contagion, leſt I periſh with the multitude!

He who forſakes his worſhip, to indulge his belly, is an idolater, his God being his belly.

God drew me on in the holy race; and I rejoiced that I could honeſtly ſay, that I am not the object of the "Woe to them that are at eaſe in Sion."

At a ſilent meeting God gave me to ſee this as the hour of my temptation, and I humbly hope, will preſerve even from inordinate purſuit of natural ſcience.

I am confirmed more and more, that God's call is at this time more particularly to the poor and deſpiſed among men, and to children.

Received the philoſopher's ſtone at meeting to-day, and ſaw, in the clear viſion, all things to work together for my good, even reproaches, defamations, cavils, pain, and death itſelf as a paſſport. Such is the glory of the goſpel manifeſted to me in this the evening of my day: bleſſed be God for his great love to me in Chriſt!

Poor and humble is my occupation among the poor, and pitiful among the children of this world, but glorious among the children of the light.

Got to meeting with a ſtruggle, where I was, through the goodneſs of God, drawn on to perſeverance in the path of heavenly mindedneſs, and giving the juſt preference of heavenly to earthly concerns.

Zeal in hallowing the Lord's name in a diligent and punctual attendance at meeting increaſes, bleſſed be the Lord!

"The night cometh wherein no man can work," was the watch word: and I ſaw many of my brethren buried alive in the earth.

A day of ſweet ſpiritual ſolemnity; theſe words "Fleſh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom," were deeply impreſſed on my mind, with an energy, to the weaning from all, even the lawful things, that miniſter only to fleſh and blood. So Lord, bleſs this Irradiation! and I ſaid to the Lord, I will ſtrip me of my ornaments of moral and natural qualifications, and ſit with Mary at thy feet, thou long-ſuffering Lord!

O may that almighty power, that gives bounds to the waves of the ſea, reſtrain me alſo within the holy limits, in the purſuit of natural ſcience!

Take a ſhort view of the ſpiritual maladies of the people: Firſt in men ſo far blinded by the ſpirit of this world, that they do not ſee their own real intereſt and peace, temporal or ſpiritual!

Second, In men deaf to the word external and internal, with regard to the heavenly calls!

Third, In men lame, and unable to come forward in practical duties and offices of love! Behold, these are the ſpiritual maladies which ſpread like a leproſy! but who lays theſe things to heart?

A ſilent, but luminous meeting, in a view of the great ſalvation offered, even of deliverance from the corruptions of the world, and from the fears of death.

O that my fruit may bear ſome proportion to all the huſbandry beſtowed!

Reviewed the fluctuations of the year paſt, which truly have been very great, from the death of my brother, my old faithful ſervant, and another aſſociate.

In ſhort, in this alone is certainty; we are ever changing, and here is nothing ſtable.

Conſoled myſelf in the houſe of my pilgrimage.

Thy day is far ſpent: night is at hand: how ſtands thy reckoning with thy Lord?

My ſixty-fifth year is now completed, through the clemency and long forbearance of God.

Take heed to thyſelf thou inſpecter, and keep to a cloſe exerciſe of a ſtrict temperance in drinking, eating, and ſtudy.

Opened the religious viſit to families, in company with two nearer the kingdom than I.

"Not by might, nor by power, but by my ſpirit," ſaid the Lord, when Jeruſalem was to be rebuilt; and ſo now.

Let thy love of nature bear ſome proportion to the time thou haſt to ſtay here: this is but ſhort, and ſo that love ſhould be but weak.

Behold the height of thy calling, even no leſs than to be ready at a moment's warning to enter the bridegroom's chamber. Lord, prepare, and guard againſt the very ſpirit of drunkenneſs, gluttony and covetouſneſs: for I now ſee, that though a man

may

may not ſtagger in the ſtreets, yet if he drink merely to gratify ſenſe, he is in the ſpirit of drunkenneſs: and, though he be not ſo far covetous, as to defraud his neighbour, he at the ſame time may, and actually does, rob God, when he keeps back the offerings due to him, as thouſands in the broad way daily do, even the offerings of confeſſion of ſins, humiliation and praiſe.

Behold now the grand point to be kept ſteadily in view, even ſteering to the middle path, viz. on the one hand not to loiter, and on the other not to be vehement in natural purſuits, but to be fervent in ſpirit, and to love God above all. Lord, raiſe!

Proceeded in the ſocial ſpiritual viſit, in which this day the maladies of the ſouls of ſome were detected, and deſcribed viz. blindneſs, lameneſs, and the having no other ſupport for their ſpiritual life, than what comes by hearing from others.

Lord, bleſs theſe labours carried on from houſe to houſe, not at all unneceſſary, but, in the view of enlightened minds, loudly called for in the preſent diſmal ſtate of our Sion: arduous, however, is the taſk, even no leſs than fighting with the ſpirit and God of this world.

My devotion was interrupted by a natural ſpeculation, viz. in a diſcovery what will precipitate earth out of water; but a ſuperior light converted this ſuggeſtion to one of a ſublimer nature, to the following purpoſe: What will precipitate earthly deſires out of the heart of man?

Anſw. The heavenly light and power ſublimating the ſoul upon the wings of faith and love, and death at laſt, will ſeparate from this clog of fleſh and blood. Lord ſtrengthen my feeble faith, raiſe my languid love!

On the death of a Kinſman and Miniſter.

Shalt thou paſs away without a memorial? ſurely, nay:

Thou

Thou waſt valiant for truth upon earth, a burning and ſhining light in a bad town and family: thou rebukeſt ſin in the gate, and waſt a heavenly minded man, that looked for another and better country. Thy memory is precious.

How far doth charity influence thy natural ſtudies?

Anſw. I aim at what is for the good of my neighbour, rejecting the ſtudies that are for mere ornament: and if there be any view to fame, Lord root it out, and give to court thy favour only, who art the eternal truth!

Dejection at meeting, occaſioned by ſome little fatigue preceding, which generally hurts: however a vigorous reſolution was formed, viz. the indolence and earthly-mindedneſs of others ſhall excite me to more diligence.

A man's greateſt enemies are thoſe of his own houſe: ſlay theſe, good Lord, and I will fear neither men nor devils.

What makes a chriſtian a king?

His reigning over the brutal appetite: but, who is a ſlave? he that is governed by it.

It is no time for rejoicing. I am ſtill more weary of the world. Lord, preſerve from a participation of the ſins of others.

A clear ſight of the folly of the purſuit of fame: it robs a man of peace, and diſables him from the diſcharge of thoſe duties, which the obſcurer ſtations permit and encourage.

May I be prepared and rendered fit to be removed from the evil to come! Lord, give more of thy fear; for ſurely I do not fear thee enough!

O the ſlowneſs of my progreſs during the ſpace of ſeveral years! O how long in learning this great truth, that this life of mine is not a ſtate of ſettlement, but baniſhment: Lord, faſten this truth on my heart, and let it accompany me in my conduct.

Greatneſs

Greatneſs is a ſnare to goodneſs: behold the multiplicity of the cares and engagements of the great and pity them.

Practical atheiſm, in a prevailing neglect and contempt of the worſhip of God in ſpirit, and unbelief in Chriſt, is entering, and partially threatens in a notable inſtance: ſhall I give way? Then let my right hand forget its cunning!

The lukewarm are robbers of God, unjuſt to themſelves, to their children, and to their friends and neighbours, even in the neglect of publick worſhip, and the direful ſpreading of their example.

Why wonder at the carnal ſtate of our youth? ſhall we not pity their weakneſs, and allure them by holy wiles, as Paul did ſome of the churches formerly? Surely, there is ample room for more labour among them: Lord, raiſe and ſend men to do this work!

What is the real obſtacle to an entire union of thy will to that of thy maker?—— I am not enough mortified to the love of natural ſcience.

As to ſciences, I have indeed ever ſtudied uſefulneſs, not meer curioſity; but this will not juſtify before God, nor indeed the beſt of my works.

I have alſo loved truth upon earth, and devoted both time and treaſure to the promotion of it; but not with that ardor which animates the hearts of ſome of my contemporaries.

Dull and heavy in a ſilent meeting; yet was comforted with an aſſurance of having done my duty in the exerciſe of chriſtian diſcipline, and this text was ſweetly applied: "Be not weary in well-doing: in due time thou ſhalt reap if thou faint not."

There is a fair analogy between the ſtate of Iſrael under the judges, on the death of Joſhua and the elders, and our church-ſtate here—— Now judgment is to be exerciſed on tranſgreſſors, and the weak are to be ſtrengthened. Lord, invigorate and raiſe up helpmeets!

helpmeets! Rules are laid down, but unleſs thou animates, they are a mere dead letter. I bleſs thee, who haſt hitherto helped me in this labour, contrary to the maxims of the friendſhip and policy of this world!

God hath favoured me beyond thouſands, even in giving eaſe and liberty to diſcharge my duties religious and civil. The time of diſſolution haſtens. As to temporals, God hath given me to ſay, "It is enough:" determined then to follow the Lord's drawings from this world of ſin, labour, temptation, weakneſs and ſuffering: O what a bleſſed thing under theſe circumſtances is the hope of the goſpel! It is my refuge indeed. Lord, give to love thee, that I may dwell with thee for ever in a far better and more glorious ſtate!

Thou art a naturaliſt, ſtudying ſtones; but lift up thy heart to a view of the ſtony hearts of thy brethren, even hearts that are not touched by the calls of the ſon of God himſelf, nor thoſe of his ſervants, but remain obdurate in the perſevering contempt of the publick worſhip of God, and of the chriſtian diſcipline eſtabliſhed.

Surely here is not only a hard heart, but a blind eye, which can ſee no beauty in theſe things! Is not here occaſion for mourning?

It is not the letter, but the ſpirit, not the ſhadow nor picture, but the ſubſtance that is our characteriſtical ſcope and aim. After this do I pant, and hope that the father of ſpirits will favour this aſpiration.

All preaching and writing will ſoon come to an end; but love, the moſt reſplendent and durable of all ſpiritual gifts, will abide for ever.

The repeated advice of our church in former times was, "Beware of too eager a purſuit of riches." The like caution was this day renewed upon my ſpirit, with reſpect unto the too eager purſuit

of

of natural knowledge; for ſurely, all this will be ſwallowed up in viſion ſhortly; and the apoſtolick recommendation of a holy careleſſneſs, in reſpect to temporals, was ſweetly revived and applied to me.

I was among my betters, whoſe faith and love is far greater than mine: theſe are bleſſed incentives; let me be their companion in this vale of ſorrows, and for ever in the better country.

The important ſervice of viſiting families in a ſocial capacity is dropping; the people in general have no ſpirit to perform it; ſo that here is little left but ſome poor pittance of preaching, and the exerciſe of chriſtian diſcipline in the hands of a few.

At meeting a ſolemn query was put to my ſoul, viz. what has thy faith done for thee?

Anſw. It has given a nearer view of eternity, and a ſweet hope of acceptance in the beloved.

A more fervent love of ſpiritual brethren as ſuch, even a love ſurpaſſing that of all external connections.—— It has, by a holy violence, lifted me up above all the ſpecious concerns of fleſh and blood.

Upon a conviction of an inordinate attachment to theſe objects in time paſt, it has taught me now to redeem my time in a juſt preference to the divine ſtudies.

But there is abundant cauſe for the purſuit of an increaſe of this faith: for indeed were it ſtronger, I ſhould love God more: for I am ſure I do not love God enough, becauſe I do not fear him enough.

O my barrenneſs, and the choaking cares of the world! If I who have ſo little of them, experience this, what muſt they do, who are ſo deeply immerſed in them?

Saw in a clear viſion at meeting, that God did not deſign this for a place of reſt or ſolid ſatisfaction; but that the chriſtian's ſabbath is in heaven only.

Truth

Truth is fallen in the ſtreets, and our Iſrael is in captivity, as ſurely as Iſrael outward was in Babylon: who then can ſing? But thou thyſelf art only on the road to the heavenly Jeruſalem: therefore boaſt not.

Lord, give me more of the ſpirit of Joſeph in Egypt, ſaying, "How ſhall I do this evil, and ſin againſt my God?" This to be revived and applied to every temptation, even to drinking and eating, that God's temple be not defiled.

Even our very thoughts in ſolitude ſhould be governed, being often vain and trifling, inſtead of being employed on profitable ſubjects, ſuch as the love of God in Chriſt, the value of time, and the ſtate of our ſouls, to pray for forgiveneſs for the omiſſions or ſins of the day; to praiſe God for mercies received; to pray for particular perſons: to query, what time have I loſt this day? and am I ready to die, and to renew thoſe actings of faith and repentance, which we ſhould judge neceſſary, if we were to wake no more?

At a ſilent meeting, was confirmed in a clear ſight of the tranſcendently ſuperior glory of the goſpel worſhip to the temple worſhip of the Jews, being not confined to time nor place.

At another ſilent meeting; a clear and lively ſenſe of divine goodneſs in a holy attraction to ſuperior heights of purity and love: ſo draw, good Lord, and I will follow!

The watchword now ſeems to be this: "Be without carefulneſs as to the world, and do leſs in nature, and trim thy lamp, and get ready."

Firm and immovable, I hope I am, in the belief of a better ſtate: the evidence for it ariſes ſtrong, even from the imperfections of the preſent: Lord, prepare for the ſuperior excellencies of that country, of which we have but a faint proſpect!

Be

Be not aſhamed of Chriſt in this degenerate age. Learn to mourn; thoſe that are ſmitten turn not. The appointed of men are not always appointed of God, nor ſpirited for the work, but ſtupid and aſleep. I am as a ſparrow on the houſe-top. Lord, ſtrengthen!

Revive the practice of walking ſolitarily after meeting, in order to let the good impreſſions received ſink deep.

"In deaths often," ſaid the apoſtle, and ſo am I, my acquaintances yearly, monthly, weekly, daily, ſinking by my ſide.

Grant me to die daily, and to wait, expect, and prepare for the awful, haſtening day of account, and the diſſolution of this mortal part.

Bleſſed be thy goodneſs, Lord, for the dew of heaven, and preſerve from being ſurfeited with the fatneſs of the earth!

Be continually preſent with me and raiſe my groveling heart from natural to ſpiritual objects.

"Bleſſed are they that mourn." If the miniſtry and preſbytery have been clear-ſighted, our ſtate is truly lamentable: the youth flying away, and the elder buried in the earth: is this a time for rejoicing, or for pampering the fleſh? Verily nay, and ſo I join the mourning few: and God is giving a bleſſed leiſure from ſecular engagements.

A view of God's infinitely ſuperior majeſty and wiſdom, in whoſe hands our life and breath are, with whom are fixed the bounds of our habitation, and whoſe eye ſurveys all ages from the beginning of the world to the end of it. O what am I in his preſence.

When I daily review my conduct, may it be with an impartial eye! may not ſelf-love ſpread a falſe covering over it.

God is ſtirring up to more activity in divers neceſſary labours; but I muſt ſtill look to myſelf firſt.

God's

God's curſe upon his ancient vineyard is in part executed on us, viz. "*I will command the clouds not to rain upon it.*"

But who ſuffers moſt by this? Not thoſe whoſe eyes are in their head, but thoſe whoſe eyes are in the ends of the earth: theſe in the preſent circumſtances, are as the parched heath in the deſart, and ſeveral of them are now complaining; but God is juſt in all his diſpenſations.

Now, on the withdrawing of the clouds is the day of trial, viz. Who do, or who do not, make God their refuge.

God is giving a bitter cup, even the fruit of ſome men's own doings, of their ambition and worldly ſpirit: ſorrow and poverty, natural and ſpiritual, are their portion, and partly ours too thro' their means: we have been deceived and deceiving in our anſwer to the query, "Are Friends punctual in their engagements?"—— O the ſtupidity of the tranſgreſſors, and even of ſeveral elders on this occaſion! Let every man teach his neighbour lamentation.

Meetneſs for glory and moderation in all temporals, was the watch-word, theſe being the two grand points to be kept in view.

What ſhall awaken thee to heavenly mindedneſs? See thy acquaintance around thee dropping into eternity ſwiftly, one after another: view divers menaces of approaching diſſolution in thy own body: See the miraculous preſervation of thy preſent ſtate of health: But methinks all theſe conſiderations are inſufficient, without ſomething of the heavenly fire: ſo deeply rooted is the love of this frail life. Lord, ſend forth thy light and thy truth!

I feel a little of the weight of my office as overſeer: Lord, increaſe my zeal, and ſanctify my happy leiſure, as an opportunity of contributing in ſmall degree to the promotion of truth upon earth.

Doth

Doth not our ſpiritual ſtate call loudly for the exerciſe of ſupplication to the Lord of the vineyard, to ſend forth more labourers.

Opened my monthly retreat; ſixty ſeven years are now paſt; they have been years of contemplation and action; years alſo of divine mercy and long forbearance, ending in an old age in a good degree delightful, in digeſting the labours of my youth, but intermingled with ſorrow, on account of a wicked world, and the hypocriſy of profeſſors, and my own barrenneſs.

Lord, aſſiſt my feeble endeavours in the diſcharge of my duties as an elder, in which daily work opens, and more than I can do; and my yoke-fellows are embarraſſed: this favour however is vouchſafed, even to have ſome ſhare in theſe tranſactions of grace, amidſt engagements in thoſe of nature.

Some joyful news of ſucceſsful endeavours of reviving two uſeful and important practices—— One, the religious inſtruction of youth—— The other, viſiting of families in a religious way.

A temptation to expatiate in natural ſtudies, but grace reſtrained, with this illumination: we ſhall never know here but in part, and the regions of ſuperior light and glory are near.

Diſcipline meeting deſerted by ſeveral, who, like the man with one talent, ſlighting the meanneſs of his gift, hid it in the earth; yet in theſe times, God raiſed up an help-meet.

Some remains of hope ſupporting my ſoul as an anchor in the proſpect of more activity and induſtry in the work of overſeer, and of holding forth as ſuch, an example to the riſing generation: Lord, animate and help!

A ſweet and near acceſs to the Lord in prayer, and an humble hope, that we are not yet arrived to that pitch of depravity which old Iſrael was, when, there being no King in Iſrael, every man did that which

which was right in his own eyes:" but even then did God raiſe up deliverers: ſo raiſe up, good Lord, in this holy ſtruggle with delinquents.

An embittering diſpenſation of ſore eyes and dull ears, the firſt taking me off from my delights of reading and writing; the ſecond of thoſe from converſation: Lord, I kiſs thy rod: and may it be a means (together with the ſight thou haſt given me of the degeneracy of my aſſociates from primitive piety) of weaning me from this low, poor world, and of eſtabliſhing me in moderation.

In the days of ignorance and unbelief preceding my converſion, I ſaw the world (not as it really was but) as it was not, having viewed it through a falſe magnifier; but I now begin to behold it as it really is, even no object of love, being truly a place of baniſhment or excluſion from paradiſe, a ſtate of imperfections, trials, temptations, dangers and ſins, as well of diſeaſes and death, even death natural, and death eternal, unleſs the ſaviour interpoſe!

Give me to view death and judgment, and to live every day as the laſt, ſince the awful hour approacheth with rapid ſtrides; and to drink and eat in thy holy fear and preſence!

Diveſt me of the murmuring ſpirit on every diſpenſation of thy providence: and teach me that excellent leſſon of being content in all ſtates, and grant an entire union of my will to thine!

Proviſions dear, expences high; In a ſpiritual view, with reſpect to ſome of us, it might be better if there were a greater ſcarcity: for it might mortify our ſenſuality, and leave the mind freer for all the ſweet and profitable exerciſes of devotion, which are too often clouded by the fumes of indigeſtion from fleſhly indulgence.

More moderation in natural ſtudies, is wanted; in order that I may go down to my grave, looſened from the world.

In

In a conference with my brother; he calls my complaints of weakneſs, imperfections and ſin; the dictates of the grand accuſer; whereas I rather chuſe to call them the ſtrivings of God's ſpirit reproving for ſin and gradually cleanſing from it; and ſo I ſay, good Lord, ſpare neither hammer, ſword, nor even fire, if neceſſary, until all thy enemies in me be ſubdued!

The ſtate of divers elders; they are pretty ready at condemning flagrant ſinners; but as to comforting the feebleminded, ſupporting the weak, and inſtructing the ignorant, they have very little ſkill or practice. Soul, how is it with thee?

I alſo am deficient, but hope God will, in ſome degree ſupply my defects, and fructify the barren ſoil.

Heavy exerciſe for introducing the religious viſit; the old procraſtination appears, and deliberation inſtead of action: the hands in the boſom in harveſt time.

Amidſt all our revoltings, God was my refuge this day, who knoweth all our wanderings, and alone ſeeth from the beginning to the conſummation of all things to his own glory: in him will I repoſe under all adverſe events: ſo help, Lord!

More vigilance is requiſite for thee in thy new office of overſeer: remember that formality in an overſeer is as criminal as in a man-created biſhop.

Lord, lift up my heart to the view of thy dealings in grace, yet more! It is true, many things delightful and uſeful have opened themſelves in reward of my laborious ſearches in nature; but, indeed the wonders of grace are of greater importance, and withal, more obvious to the view of every enlightened mind, and of more intereſting and univerſal concern, and are lively incentives to adoration and love; even the love of God in Chriſt Jeſus, and par-

ticularly in this miraculous interpoſition in preſerving his church, more or leſs, in all ages; and even now viſibly awakening thouſands to a right goſpel ſenſe of things, and, in our little ſociety, is raiſing up children to Abraham, even as from the ſtones of the ſtreet. Praiſe the Lord, O my ſoul!

Trouble on account of two Laodicean brethren, with a ſenſe that we in the city, in a ſpiritual view, may be compared to ſtagnated waters, ſituated almoſt always in the ſame places, and among the ſame perſons, which tends to dullneſs; whereas, as in nature, ſo in grace, variety is pleaſant, and running waters are ſweet, and clouds ſhould move from one ſpot to another, in order to water different places; but, alas! where are theſe? Let the harp hang upon the willow.

'Herein ſhineth the miniſtry with peculiar luſtre, even in preaching, and recommending Chriſt within, and not themſelves, and in ſteadily publiſhing, and maintaining the way of the croſs, as the only road to the crown.

Proceeded in the viſit, wherein truth ſhone, in its genuine nakedneſs and ſimplicity, and the eſſential duties of piety and brotherly love were diſplayed in ſweet and fervent exhortations and admonitions. God gave courage to ſtand in the gap, and join in an harmonious co-operation for the promotion of truth upon earth, truth in converſation, truth in the cloſet, truth in ſhops, and in the market.

At a ſilent meeting, the weight of the engagement of an elder was felt, with prayer for ſtrength to accompliſh it.

Weaning from the world is the work now impending.

A happy providence diſpoſed me to an acquieſcence in the divine ſuperintendency, with regard to my affliction, on account of the ſtate of the church,

even to truſt in him, of whom it is ſaid, Pſal. xcvii. 2. "*Clouds and darkneſs are round about him.*"

A ſweet attraction yeſterday from the earth, and all its concerns, which was renewed in my ſilent attendance at wiſdom's gate, at our meeting to-day, with an appoſite illumination in theſe words: "*We have no continuing city here;*" no ſabbath, but a ſucceſſion of endleſs viciſſitudes. Reſolved to love the world no more. So help, Lord!

This day, a clear viſion of the high importance of the elderſhip, and ſpiritual particular viſits, thus: It reaches individuals, whereas preaching is partly loſt in generals.

It enters into divers minute particular matters, which a publick miniſtry cannot reach. If rightly exerciſed, it is an excellent help to the miniſtry, even in applying the doctrines delivered, to individuals.

The quarterly review of bodily diſeaſes being now finiſhed, it is highly ſeaſonable to lift up the eye a little higher, even to the epidemical diſeaſes of the ſouls of men, viz. Forgetfulneſs of God in time of proſperity, hardneſs of heart, curioſity in other men's matters, with neglect of the concerns of our own ſouls, great lukewarmneſs, and a rapid career into practical atheiſm, after a long courſe of unbelief in Chriſt as our Lord and law-giver, our pattern, our mediator, interceſſor, and our propitiatory ſacrifice, as well as our light and comforter.

O the weight of the work of an elder, its vaſt extent and importance! ſee: nothing now in a manner ſtands between us and utter deſolation, but the hedge of diſcipline: Lord animate the form!

I thought I had ſeveral marks of the King's favour, though I muſt not reſt here, but ſtill preſs forward; and not be weary in well doing. Surely God hath enlightened thee in the proper duties of an elder:

elder: go on in the diligent exerciſe thereof; the end of the race ſeems to be near.

O Lord raiſe up more labourers in a faithful preſbytery, in thy vineyard; and rectify thoſe many falſe brethren, who neither pray this prayer, nor act according to the ſpirit of it, but by withdrawing their own ſhoulders, and calling out for foreign aid, neglect the gift that lies dormant in themſelves.

Lord, take not away the hedge with which thou haſt fenced us, but give wiſdom to preſerve it!

Saw clearly my great weakneſs, and that I cannot ſee death and judgment ſo near as undoubtedly they are, without the help of a better remembrancer.

A ſilent meeting: God is ſhaking from all human dependencies. It was no diſappointment to me, who had bread in my own houſe, and wanted not for a prayer for more meekneſs, and more heavenly-mindedneſs.

Saw the juſtice of God in withholding the clouds from a fruitleſs vineyard; for ſurely, in general, things wax worſe and worſe, and we ſeem plainly to have merited the appellation of "*Sandy Builders*" Lord awaken my poor ſoul to the oppoſite ſtate, and ſo to fight as not beating the air; ſo to run as to obtain!

It continues a mournful reflection, that God is remarkably ſmiting our ſhepherds, and what will become of the ſheep he only knoweth! Let him be thy refuge on this occaſion.

Some illuminations from the accoutrements and exerciſes of the Jewiſh prieſts and Levites, particularly their bearing with them on their breaſts the names of the ſeveral tribes, their bearing the iniquities of the people in their holy things, and the Levites carrying the Ark of the teſtimony on their ſhoulders, analogous in ſome ſort to the labours of

the elders in the exerciſe of the holy diſcipline in the chriſtian church.

Our diſtinguiſhing badge is the renunciation of ſuperfluities of all kinds, with reſpect to either profit or pleaſure. I had to ſee the glory, beauty, and pleaſure of the liberty we profeſs to aſpire unto, even to be freed from all inordinate attachments to the pleaſures, profits, and vain honours of this world; a liberty of promoting truth upon earth, by being freed from incumbrances.

What if we, who have been ſignally favoured by repeated viſitations, and have avowed making covenant with God, and a renunciation of the world, ſhould at laſt become worldly, and as ſuch be forſaken of God, and left deſolate? Truly this would be no more than befel our ſiſter Laodicea. Righteous are thy ways, O God.

Sixty-eight years are now paſt: how much more remains, thou, Lord, only knoweſt: O, prepare for the awful hour! cleanſe from every impurity of fleſh and ſpirit! give an increaſe of love to thee, and to my neighbour.

One country meeting is gone, a ſecond is going, and a third threatens alſo a diſſolution: death commonly begins at the extremities: Lord, thou knoweſt what will become of the head: Lord, preſerve a faithful few in thy favour, and if it be thy will, raiſe up more: thy ways are ways of wonder.

The clouds, the outward miniſtry, are in a great meaſure withdrawn: and now impends the trial of the ſpirits of many, for determining who adheres to the King inviſible, Chriſt Jeſus, the perpetual preſident of the aſſemblies of the ſaints, and who not.

My natural affairs ſeem to proſper better, notwithſtanding that the ſpiritual of late have had the aſcendency; and that maxim of "*Godlineſs having the promiſe of this life, and of that to come,*" was confirmed: as alſo that ſaying of the wiſe man

Prov.

Prov. iii, "*Fear the Lord and depart from evil: it ſhall be health to thy navel, and marrow to thy bones.*"

A ſilent meeting with two ſtrangers; and what then? It is good to know how to want, and how to abound, and to learn that the worſhip of God conſiſteth not eſſentially, either in ſpeaking or in hearing; for neither the ſayers of the word, nor the hearers of it, are juſtified, but the doers, now and for evermore.

I bow and worſhip thy wonderful goodneſs to me, Lord, even in thy countleſs providences to me all my life long, in pitying the weakneſſes and ſins of my youth and manhood, and in now ſweetning my old age, giving vigour of body and mind, with the happy opportunity of a proper review and diſpoſal of the labours of my youth, but, above all, with faith in Chriſt Jeſus, in all his manifeſtations and offices. Who ſo favoured? may I walk more worthily!

A laborious diſcipline meeting, wherein truth and its teſtimony prevailed againſt immorality.

Lord, inſpire with that ſupreme love to thee, and next to my neighbour, which is the fulfilling of law and goſpel. On the contrary, view the ſtate of the world, where, "Religion as well as civility is degenerated into ceremony," even in the ſeveral duties of the firſt and ſecond table: as to the firſt, inſtead of the real love of God, and fear to offend him, are ſubſtituted ſaying of prayers, lip-labour, fruitleſs ſpeaking and hearing: and as to the ſecond, the love of one's neighbour, (the fundamental of all the duties we owe him, which are not a few, and from which true good manners, and a complaiſance truly chriſtian, proceed) inſtead of this the image of the thing is ſubſtituted: "Your humble ſervant," ſays one to another (ſuch as indeed every ſincere chriſtian is to his neighbour) but he does not mean

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the thing, nor do the work. Is not this a criminal hypocriſy to be deprecated?

God opened my eye to ſee a beauty in the holy diſcipline, whilſt the eyes of ſeveral of my contemporaries are quite cloſed in this reſpect.

It is plain that worldly embarraſments are the real drawback to many from coming up in an holy activity: ſo then the interior watchword of the day was "Love not the world."

Thou muſt not only pray, but watch, and double the guard, particularly on proſpects of impatience on croſs events, "Even the ſin which eaſily beſets."

The youth have not ſuch opportunites of private religious meetings in families, as were frequent with us in ſome parts of England. If then a ſucceeding generation is raiſed, it muſt be by miraculous means.

A view of the ſtate of the chriſtian church, in the preſent time; of the patriarchal church, of that in the wilderneſs, and of the jewiſh, all attended with various exerciſes and diſtreſſes, and ours now with falſe brethren, in their contempt of their native rights, to liberty, and, inſtead of prizing it, becoming voluntary ſlaves and faſhion-mongers.

There will be great deſertions; a ſpirit of unbelief; ſleep and ſloth, are gone forth, by an intoxication worſe than wine, even by the ſpirit of this world: and the trial of the faith and patience of a few is at hand: Lord, preſerve, leſt theſe alſo ſhould be ſwallowed up in the common torrent of corruption!

Shall I not embrace death, and every ſorrow and trouble attending? Lord, help, and ſilence the voice of murmur in my habitation for ever! O ſend forth thy light and thy truth, yet more and more, even unto the perfect day!

From the perplexities of natural ſcience, and from the love of human applauſe, good Lord, deliver, and let my ſole aim be to pleaſe thee, and to

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be recorded in thy book: all elſe is uncertain and fluctuating as the waters: give me to know myſelf; let not my ſins nor errors be concealed from me: waſh from foot to head! breathe holineſs on my natural ſtudies! may they be directed to thy glory, and the good of my neighbour ſolely, and without the alloy of human reſpects or views!

Deliver entirely from the madneſs of the inordinate love of the world in old age! on the contrary, let this ſtate prove fruitful in heavenly mindedneſs, in faith and love, and in every chriſtian grace, and be attended with a holy and righteous contempt of every thing that relates to this mortal ſtate, compared to the regard due to the immortal!

I have been too barren in ſpirituals this week paſt, though I ſee eternity at my door.

Time was, that I did not prefer Jeruſalem to my chief earthly joy: time is, that I do, bleſſed be God, who hath changed my heart! time was, that I was blinded by the God of this world, not ſeeing it as it was and is, but, as it was not, and is not, and ſtill leſs ſeeing, or not having a diſtant proſpect, by faith, of the glories of the world to come: but God hath opened the blind eye, and moreover he hath alſo unſtopped the deaf ear, ſo that I now hear his voice in the city, in the various diſpenſations of his providence, and he hath taken away my lameneſs, and enabled me not only to walk, but run: and to crown all, the captain, who was made perfect through ſufferings, hath alſo given me the honour of ſuffering a little for his cauſe in theſe calamitous times and days of forgetfulneſs of God.

Sweet content and thankfulneſs, with regard to my modicum of this world's goods, even beyond many thouſands: but, O for the heavenly treaſure, the gifts of the ſpirit, and particularly that of love, the ſum total of law and goſpel!

God

God is weaning me from this world by many bitter occurrences, from the love of much ſociety, from the follies, vices, and unbelief, almoſt everywhere conſpicuous: ſurely then there muſt be a better country, to which, O Lord, tranſlate in thy good time.

In ſilence, a lively ſenſe of the high privilege of being a real member of the true church, even of a ſociety called out of, and preſerved from the evils and corruptions of the world.

At meeting, a poor attendance, on the ſide of the matrons: a little rain extinguiſhes their fire.

Purge, good, Lord yet more, that I may bring forth more fruit, and particularly in the duties of an elder.

Verily, the gate is ſtreight, and the way narrow, thus: on the one hand, a ſtruggle to mount upwards on the wings of faith and love, even towards heaven, the wiſhed-for port, eſpecially as my voyage is, undoubtedly, very near finiſhing: on the other hand, not to neglect the duty to my neighbour, and his natural and civil good and welfare, in the proſecution of certain works directed to this end, though an end infinitely ſhort of the good of their ſouls and mine.

In the early part of my life, I ſaw the formality and hypocriſy of divers of the profeſſion, and was offended; but was preſerved from hurt from hence by an inward call to this purpoſe: "Look not out, but in."

Church buſineſs impends, but the hands to do it are otherwiſe employed; viz. In the concerns of meer fleſh and blood. Methought I felt a little of the heavenly fire animating of me to duty amidſt the diſcouragements, remembring that Chriſt our captain ſaid, "It was his meat and drink to do his father's will.

A bleſſed ſweet morning in the country, the peace of God attending, I truſt. Soul, awake! and think

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of Moſes and his troubles, of David and his troubles, and of the travels, perils, and grievous ſufferings of the apoſtle Paul; but, above all, think of Chriſt Jeſus, the captain of our ſalvation, his troubles from his birth to his death, and then ſink into thy own proper ſituation, even humiliation and ſelf-contempt, upon the compariſon of thy troubles on account of the church: nevertheleſs, lift up thy heart, and truſt in God, who knoweth all things, preſideth over all things, and will bring forth the iſſue to his glory.

An afflicting ſcene; ſeveral elders go off from the diſcipline-meeting before the important buſineſs of the day is done!

What lack I yet, good Lord?

Anſw. More meekneſs, more patience, and more reſignation to the will of my maker on every occaſion, ſo as to be able to ſay in the integrity of my heart, "*Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven.*"

Lord ſet bounds to every inordinate affection reſpecting the meer body, and raiſe my groveling heart on the wings of faith and love to thoſe things that are of eternal duration!

Verily the Lord hath brought me into the narrow way, where there is but little company: Lord, keep me there and enable me to tread ſtraight ſteps therein, remembring the end thereof, even life everlaſting.

I will bring my peace-offering, even of thankſgiving, to my Lord, in that I feel ſome real acceſſion of courage and ſpiritual ſtrength, and being freer from the uſual attacks of ſpiritual pride, having prayed for humility, which God was pleaſed, in ſome good degree, to give, to him be the praiſe! Indeed, when I look back on my weak and infant ſtate, abundant cauſe of humiliation appears.

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An inward voice of thankſgiving to God for the gift of his ſon, the Lord Chriſt, to us Gentiles, the myſtery hid from ages, adorable, incomprehenſible, and unmerited: and if the ſweet ſinger of Iſrael had occaſion to ſay, "*Awake, Sackbut, Pſaltery and Harp, and praiſe the Lord*;" So had I, ſo had we, and ſo had every one, whoſe eyes the God of this world had not blinded.

My native fierceneſs ſeemed, in the clear viſion, to be the chief ſin of my boſom, not yet ſubdued: good Lord, and God of love, ſubdue it!

Soul awake! the everlaſting antitypal ſabbath, I truſt, is at hand, the end of all labours, ſufferings and ſins. See and prepare for it, by letting the earth now enjoy its ſabbaths, even in a gradual relaxation and holy careleſneſs in all the ſpecious concerns of fleſh and blood.

Thy work is not yet done: the war in the members is ſtill felt. Patience hath not had its perfect work: O my poverty! Lord, help!

In the midſt of various diſcouragements, I was induced to believe that our little labour hath not been wholly in vain: yea I was a witneſs to ſome effects thereof.

I am a wonder of God's mercy and bounty. He is, as it were, renewing my youth, and giving in old age to enjoy and ſweetly apply the labours of my youth whilſt multitudes of my equals and aſſociates are dropping into eternity, or elſe various ways diſtreſſed. Awake ſoul, and work; for the eleventh hour is come!

In a religious view, ſuffering is my portion: Lord, ſuſtain.

The tenor of the drawing or proper ſteerage this day was, to keep carefully the holy medium between a criminal remiſſneſs in temporals on the one hand, and an anxiety about them on the other.

To the ſolemn query, what hinders thy immediate admiſſion into the bridegroom's chamber? The anſwer was, more of temperance in eating, drinking, anger, and ſtudy, is required.

O my earthly mindedneſs and proneneſs to the concerns of meer fleſh and blood! nothing convinces more of the neceſſity of a ſuperior aid, to reſiſt this natural, deeply rooted bias.

Indeed the apoſtle ſays alſo, "*In me, that is, in my fleſh, dwelleth no good thing*," but his other ſaying, "*The ſpirit helpeth our infirmities*," adminiſters comfort, and enjoins to call for its aſſiſtance.

Even the very *memento mori* is ſo far inſufficient to the proper effect, that I feel by obſervation and experience, it requires a ſuperior renewed light and aſſiſtance to put it in practice, together with the practical conſequence, even a comparative contempt of this life, joined to an aſpiration, hope, and deſire of a better.

It is the peculiar bleſſing of my old age, to ſee the world in quite another light than in my youth and manhood, even as it really is, viz. "*A vale of tears*"—— bleſſed be the father of lights!

The neceſſity of overſeers, and the united labours of miniſters and elders, as alſo the inſufficiency of the firſt without the laſt, abundantly appeared; and that otherwiſe notorious immoralities and ſcandals muſt eſcape unnoticed, and the holy diſcipline be trodden under foot.

Sixty-nine years now paſt: Soul, awake, and trim thy lamp! almoſt all thy cotemporaries are gone, and thy natural purſuits are almoſt finiſhed, and the imperfections of the knowledge thence obtained appear: In medicine occur poor and miſerable objects, and multitudes of incurables imploring help in vain: next, in the ſpiritual view, the ſtate of the church is diſmal. Remember this awful ſite in the front

front of the people, and tremble: Lord, fertilize my barrenneſs!

O God, whoſe ways and providence are myſterious and unſearchable, and thy goodneſs beyond expreſſion, we indeed can ſay from experience, that thou art abundant in goodneſs, and truth, ſlow to anger, pardoning iniquity, tranſgreſſion and ſin.

I bleſs thy peculiar bounty ſignally extended to me in this my old age, and giving me a clear viſion of this world, as it really is, and an humble hope of a better, and for ſome precious writings, and ſome late miniſterial viſits, tending greatly to edification.—— Lord, give due moderation in my natural ſtudies, and let Jeruſalem indeed maintain its juſt and holy preference! reduce my will to an entire ſubjection to thy holy will on all occaſions! give wiſdom to ſteer my courſe aright before the people among whom thou haſt caſt my lott, even to thy glory and our mutual ſpiritual benefit! ſtrengthen the young and the poor, and grant if it be thy will, that they may fill up the vacant ſeats of the elders! grant unto me more fruitfulneſs in the faithful diſcharge of the duties of an elder, and to live every day as if it were my laſt!

Now we return to ſilence; and, after all, there is great inſtruction in it: for it drives the wiſe in heart home, even to the word. The words have been too much magnified, followed, and reſted in by multitudes, which in truth's language, is no better than worſhipping of images; for what more are words than repreſentations of the life?

A ſweet view of the beauty of moderation, even in the quiet of mind attending, and the better ſucceſs even of our temporals; but above all, its looſening from the inordinate attachment to this world.

Firſt day of the week. What is the end of my giving up theſe four hours to day? Surely, to refreſh my memory in the great truths of the chriſtian religion,

religion, and to get ſtrength to perſevere in the chriſtian race the reſt of the week, which I truſted, from the ſweet heavenly attraction, I had attained this day.

A bleſſed ſilent-meeting; where it was clear, that ſtill further advances in the holy race, and a further ſupply of the chriſtian graces, are wanting, and ſo to God the giver I fly, imploring it from his inexhauſtible treaſury.

Perſevere, for the end of thy race is near; and not only perſevere, but grow, flouriſh, and bring forth fruit in this thy old age: for this is the nature of the trees of righteouſneſs in the ſpiritual plantation.

I have been fertile in naturals, beyond many of my fellows, but barren and poor in ſpirituals: my faith little, my love too languid. True, Lord; but adored be thy bounty; thou haſt given ſpace to repent, and improve the ſhort reſidue of my time, in order that I may be more fruitful in old age: even ſo grant, good Lord.

At the afternoon meeting, mourned for the perverſeneſs of human nature, exemplified this day in ſome ſpurious ſpeakers rejecting all advice: mourned alſo over myſelf, and over Sion, in her preſent deſolations.

Meditation on the youth's meeting.

This is right, and all of a piece with catechizing them, and reading the ſcriptures with them: it is a brave ſtruggle amidſt revolting, and diſcouraging Elders, and ſo far keeping in the narrow way, where the few go: The foreign miniſters hope well of ſome of the youth; ſhall none ſecond their hope? They are in the midſt of ſnares and dangers, ſurrounded by bad examples of lukewarmneſs and earthly mindedneſs; but it is no new thing for a gracious providence to raiſe up good children from bad parents.

Here

Here is a large collection of little books, the productions of many worthy miniſters and elders, who have committed their thoughts to writing, leaving to us theſe monuments of their wiſdom and heavenly mindedneſs; a ſpiritual feaſt indeed prepared, and ſhall there be no elder to invite to the participation of it, not one who looks beyond the grave to the ſucceeding generation? God forbid!

From the earthly treaſure aſpire to the heavenly, even an improvement in every gift of the ſpirit: ſo help, Lord!

O my ſoul, beware of the poiſon annexed to worldly riches and honours! Lord, preſerve, and lead ſweetly on to the purſuit of the ſpiritual riches, and of the honour that cometh from thee only!

A ſecret whiſper yeſterday, tending to ſweeten and humble, viz. ſink down into a deep, lively and grateful ſenſe of God's unutterable, and unmerited bounty to thee from the beginning of thy life to this moment, even in many moſt gracious providences favouring a progreſs heavenwards: let the voice of murmur be no longer heard in thy habitation: thou who haſt received ſo much good, how dareſt thou to murmur at ſmall evils?

The myſteries of grace are deeper, and infinitely more important than thoſe of nature. God's ways and works in the church were and are ways of wonder, of wiſdom unſearchable, and goodneſs unutterable.

A ſilent meeting, but luminous: a thin congregation: the people are not convinced of the profit of the inward teaching: they love the ſong, but will not act according to the tenor of it, as in Ezekiel's days.

Reſolved not to be diſcouraged at the fewneſs of the people, who are in heart devoted to truth's cauſe, remembring what the Lord ſaith concerning the narrow way.

From

From riches, worldly honours, and the ſnares thereof, and of the enchanting ſmiles of an ungodly world, good Lord, deliver and give to ſeek the ſpiritual riches, and the honour which cometh from thee alone!

Lord, help us in the viſit impending! cauſe the ax to be laid to the root of the prevailing lukewarmneſs, the criminal quietiſm under imperfection and ſin, the inſenſibility of our real ſtate, and the evil heart of unbelief!

Our foreign brethren and ſiſters joining us in the viſit, is acceptable: and yet one diſadvantage attends, as it in ſome meaſure interrupts the freedom of our communications, and tends to ſuppreſs ſome motions in the way of admonitions which might be made, were we alone.

One thing wanted in our viſit, ſeems to have been a juſt repreſentation of our ſtate by nature in the firſt Adam, becauſe unleſs our miſery in this be felt, no redeemer will be ſought for.

Our worſhip is interrupted in our publick meetings: I ſaw lately in the clear viſion, that I muſt not look "Who is here and who is there" to which the late comers are a temptation, but that I muſt look ſingly to Jeſus, and I ſaw many of theſe gazers near me, who are greatly interrupted by this means. God mend them and me.

I truſt that the holy principle grows ſtronger, becauſe in works of charity the left hand doth not ſo much know what the right hand doth, as formerly: leſs ſelf-applauſe, but was led up higher, even rather to pray for a bleſſing on my labours.

The ſweet impreſſion of ſuperabundant favours conferred on me, weighed me down to a ſubmiſſion to any croſs event.

The divine appointment of elders is confirmed from Iſaiah: "I will ſet watchmen on thy walls, O Jeruſalem, who ſhall not ceaſe crying all the night,

night, and all the day," Of what? Anſw. of the dangers impending.

Good Lord, thou haſt honoured me greatly, in enabling me to ſtand in the gap, and join the faithful little remnant; Lord, give a ſuitable demeanour otherwiſe!

Hitherto I have truſted in thee, in giving the righteous preference to Jeruſalem, and have not been confounded nor hurt: ſo Lord, uphold and maintain this truſt!

Upon cool reflection, nothing can be more apparent than the real importance and uſefulneſs of our family viſits, in reference to the religious and moral conduct of the people.

My ſeventy-ſecond year opens; may it be a year of being perfected in love!

Soul, awake! thou haſt read, haſt ſpoken, and (what is more) haſt written in favour of the holy cauſe; look now cloſely to thy own conduct.

Here is the grand point in view: to tread ſtraight ſteps in the narrow way, and ever to give Jeruſalem the holy and righteous preference to every other concern.

"How hard for a rich man to enter the kingdom"! even becauſe riches are ſtrong incentives to evil with regard to the three capital idols,—— The vain honours, profits, and pleaſures of the world.

From the earthly riches, (to be made ſervants of,) aſcend to the heavenly, even to an increaſe of faith, love, and of the holy filial fear.

Two watch words—— Firſt—— "Behold the bridegroom cometh: trim thy lamp and go forth to meet him." Second—— I have been loaded with an unmerited ſeries of bleſſings, may I henceforward never murmur at any croſs occurrences.

At a ſilent meeting it was clear to me, that God is righteous in withdrawing the miniſtry, becauſe we have not obeyed its call to heavenly mindedneſs, as

in

in the caſe of the vineyard deprived of the clouds, by reaſon of its barrenneſs.

I find no book ſo ſuitable to the ſtate of the church as the Bible, even as affording conſolation in times of the greateſt diſtreſs, in a ſweet view of God's ſpecial providences in paſt events, and in the prophecies of the future to the end of the world, and conſummation of all things to God's glory.

Take comfort, O my ſoul; for the ſpirit of party in religion is ſubſiding, and Chriſt hath aſſuredly many ſheep, not of our fold.

A certain Saint makes his buſineſs a ſacrifice to the Lord.

What is mine? I think uſefulneſs hath been my view: Lord, raiſe above all ſelfiſh views of either honour or profit: may I covet no honour, but what comes from thee!

Lord, I hear thy voice in the preſent gracious diſpenſations of thy providence, viz.—— In my preſent happy retirement—— In weaning from the world, by embittering all publick aſſociations and converſations by hardneſs of hearing—— By an almoſt perpetual catarrh, impairing my ſmell and taſte.—— By the death of my acquaintance, whilſt a young generation are eſtranged from me.—— By affording a ſufficiency for the outward man, and ſo exempting from all corroding cares and ſolicitude.

A ſilent meeting, with a conſiderable multitude: pitied ſuch as have no food but words.

Take courage! Two inſtances of profit from my adminiſtration; wherefore, go on to exhort and reprove with all long-ſuffering.

The reigning petition is, ſtrengthen my weakneſs, and ſweeten my ſourneſs, God of all power and love!

I want help every day over my infirmities, and ſo find it neceſſary to cry, Lord, help!

Senſible of God's ſpecial love to me in ſeveral inſtances, in drawing off from, and leſſening, certain temporal concerns.

A fear leſt the hedge ſhould be taken away, as well as the clouds removed from our ſpiritual vineyard. Lord, preſerve me from being acceſſary hereunto!

Seventy-two years are now paſt; and how ſwiftly? But, O how ſwiftly alſo will the remainder paſs!

It was an awful truth publiſhed this day by a miniſter of low degree, viz. "Did we love one another as we ought, we ſhould be more diligent in aſſembling together; therefore the reigning indifference herein is a mark of this badge of diſcipleſhip being defaced."

Want of inwardneſs betrays itſelf at our meetings, in divers looking about to ſee who is here, and who is there.

More fruitfulneſs in converſation is wanted: more of Chriſt there, and leſs of temporals.

When a man comes to a degree of perfection in natural ſcience, he is ſuddenly taken off: ſurely this ſhould mitigate the ardor of our purſuits of any thing, except that of acceptance with God.

The ſtate of the church of Epheſus, Rev. II. is our ſtate here; it remains, that we "repent, and do our firſt works, leſt the candleſtick be removed."

View the ſtate of the church through various ages to the preſent time, as recorded in the ſcriptures; our faith and patience muſt be tried. There is a God who ruleth all things, and directeth the iſſue of all to his own glory: let him be our refuge; to adore, not to know much, is our province!

The vineyard, though often watered, hath brought forth wild grapes, and therefore it is but juſt that the clouds ſhould be withdrawn.

Some glimmerings of hope appear in a young generation.

Chriſt

Chriſt hath many ſheep not of our fold.

Held our monthly conference: our ſouls harmonize in the proſpect of approaching death, and in complaining, that we are not enough alive in this exerciſe, but ſtand in need, even on this account, of help ſuperior to our own.

O my ſoul, from the riches and honours of this world, do thou aſcend to the honour that cometh from God only, and to an increaſe of the heavenly riches of faith, love, and other gifts of the ſpirit.

An illumination on the apoſtle's words: "In this we groan earneſtly, deſiring to be cloathed upon with our houſe, which is from heaven, knowing, that whilſt we are at home in the body, we are abſent from the Lord." Now this groaning is a ſtep far beyond me; yet ſhall I ſay, I will preſs after it, ſo help me, Lord; for indeed I am too fond of this life.

I ſaw clearly, that the time for reſt is come, after much labour; and now remains the chief concern, a proper preparation for a tranſlation, and the temporals to be tranſacted with a holy calmneſs and due ſubordination, the earth being kept under feet. Amen!

Is not that ſtate of the Elders a very pitiful one, where they are little more than excommunicators, but have very little heart to comfort the feeble-minded, ſupport the weak, or inſtruct the ignorant.

Drawn to the ſpiritual water within (of which Chriſt ſpoke to the woman of Samaria) a ſolid reality, as much as the natural water, which has been the object of my ſtudy, even in its cleanſing, ſweetning, ſtrengthening, and refreſhing operations.

O, what care, what toils and travails in inveſtigating nature, to which thoſe reſpecting grace bore no proportion, particularly in getting the meek and quiet ſpirit, to which I aſpire! Lord, help!

I find my prosperity and safety to have been in littleness.

At a silent meeting—— A delightful view of the beauty of the establishment of "Watching over one another for good," and some duties in occasional visits pointed out.

Lord, give more of thy presence in my naturals! and breathe holiness on our social duties: we are born helpless, and all along dependant on one another.

Seventy-five years are now past: opens the Seventy-sixth a day of mercy and bounty, health of body and mind, blessed tranquility and leisure, devoted, I hope, to good purposes.

Two incentives to more spiritual industry. *First* bad examples, in lukewarm professors coming late to meetings. *Second*——Living good examples of my betters in zeal and vigilance.

Not meer heaven to be sought, but a fitness for the company there. 24 MA 59

FINIS.